



Thursday, September 29, 2016

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SHOCK AND FURY AS BIG SAM QUILTS

Report by Richard Guttridge

SAM Allardyce has been accused of letting Dudley down after allegations were made in an undercover sting which on Tuesday night saw him leave his post as England manager.

The 61-year-old, a Wolves fan who grew up in Dudley, had been in charge of the national team for just 67 days.

Many football fans have reacted with fury over the shortest ever reign for an England boss. Allardyce was filmed by the Daily Telegraph allegedly agreeing to be paid £400,000 to offer advice on how rules could be broken on player transfers. He left his £3 million a year job by 'mutual consent', said the Football Association.

The governing body said the behaviour of Allardyce was 'inappropriate' and revealed he had 'apologised' and accepts the 'significant error of judgment'.

"This is not a decision that was taken lightly but the FA's priority is to protect the wider interests of the game and maintain the highest standards of conduct in football," the statement said.

Former Aston Villa captain Gareth Southgate will take charge of the England team for the next four matches.

Apology

Allardyce met FA chairman Greg Clarke and chief executive Martin Glenn to offer what he called a 'sincere and wholehearted apology'.

"Although it was made clear during the recorded conversations that any proposed arrangements would need the FA's full approval, I recognise I made some comments which have caused embarrassment," he added.

Allardyce was due to appear in Dudley on Saturday to unveil a blue plaque at Priory Park in memory of the town's 1950s football hero Duncan Edwards. It is unclear whether he will still attend.

Dudley councillor Paul Brothwood said: "He has let the area down and he has let the great game down. Nobody wants to see Dudley's name tarnished." Of the decision to step down, he added: "It's the right decision."

Colin Brookes, chief executive of Halesowen Town, said: "It is a bit of a shock to everybody, so close to him taking over. I suppose he has been a bit naive. When you are in that position, you have to be careful. It's a great shame."

Allardyce, 61, grew up on the Wren's Nest estate but he left the area aged just 15 when he went to play for Bolton Wanderers. His only game in charge of England was a 1-0 win over Slovakia on September 4.

UNIVERSITY HONOUR FOR TENNIS ACE JORDANNE



'It's amazing' - Halesowen's Jordanne Whitley MBE receives her honorary degree from the University of Wolverhampton

BRITAIN'S number one wheelchair tennis player Jordanne Whitley MBE has been awarded an honorary degree from the University of Wolverhampton.

The Honorary Doctorate of Letters was presented in recognition of her achievements as a wheelchair tennis player by the Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing.

The Halesowen-born Paralympic medalist, who returned from Rio with her bronze medal, said she was humbled to have received her award.

Speaking after receiving her award at Wol-

verhampton's Grand Theatre, she said: "It's amazing and I am extremely humbled by the whole thing. I hope my story can inspire others - you don't have to look a certain way to be successful and be happy."

Jordanne is a Paralympic wheelchair tennis player who was born with brittle bone disease, which means she has broken her legs more than 26 times.

At 14 she became the youngest national champion and at 16 she qualified for the Beijing Paralympics. In 2012 she became the first woman, alongside her doubles partner,

to win a Paralympic bronze medal in wheelchair tennis. In 2014 she and her Japanese doubles partner Yui Kamiji netted their first ever grand slam title winning the Australian open, and making history by winning all four grand slams in one year - the first time for a British player.

In 2015 Jordanne won her first grand slam singles title at the US Open. A month later she was awarded an MBE for her services to wheelchair tennis. Now 24 and ranked number three in the world, she is the most decorated British tennis player of all time.

DEATH

Inquest on victim of stabbing opens

THE inquest has opened into the death of a man who was found stabbed at his home in Netherton. Simon Johnson's body was found at the property in Cradley Road, on August 11.

The body of the 41-year-old father-of-two was discovered after he failed to arrive at work. He had been stabbed in the back several times.

Four teenagers were arrested on suspicion of murder but released on bail until October 17.

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until November 28.

EMERGENCY

Warning due to acid spill vapour

FIVE people - including two ambulance staff - were taken to hospital after 1,000 litres of acid spilled from a lorry, causing traffic disruption in Coseley.

Residents and businesses were told to keep windows closed after the incident on Monday morning, which saw around 70 firefighters working with Environment Agency staff in Anchor Lane. Emergency services were called shortly before noon after reports of a hydrochloric acid spill.

● Incident closes road - page 17

ACCIDENT

Motorist hurt as car hits telegraph pole

A DRIVER was taken to hospital after his car smashed into a telegraph pole in Quarry Bank.

The BMW was left badly damaged after it uprooted the telegraph pole in the head-on collision in Amblecote Road.

A car parked on a nearby driveway also suffered minor damage as a result of the incident.

The driver was treated by paramedics at the scene and taken to hospital after the smash on Sunday.

Debris from the car and the fallen telegraph pole was scattered over the pavement.

INSIDE

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS



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Family decor shop closing after 55 years



County Wallpapers, Sedgley

ONE of Sedgley's oldest and most distinctive shops will close its doors for the final time this weekend.

County Wallpapers, in Dudley Road, is shutting after 55 years of trading in the village.

Owner Deborah Evans is retiring from running the wallpaper and paint specialists which was started by her father Debney Fuidge in Droitwich in 1951. The business moved to Sedgley in 1961 in the former Picture House cinema, re-named Wallpaper House, which was also previously a drill hall.

Mrs Evans, whose husband Trevor retired from County Wallpapers 15 years ago, said that this weekend will be the final days of trading for the shop, which was open seven days a week.

Showroom

She said that the landmark building had been sold to Dudley business Furniture for the Home, which currently trades online and plans to make the old cinema its showroom.

The new business is due to open in the building before Christmas.

Mrs Evans said it was sad to be closing the family business, but three of the members of staff were also retiring and only two would now be seeking new jobs.

"It has come to the natural time to stop. It is the end of an era, but the time is right," said Mrs Evans.

"I wish the new people, who are local as well, every success."

Mrs Evans said they had received a touching farewell presentation from Dulux for whom they had been an advice centre for years.

Radiographer struck off after X-ray gaffes

A RADIOGRAPHER who made a series of errors at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital – including giving an X-ray to the wrong child and forgetting to put an arm brace back on a patient – has been struck off.

Health bosses took action over Blessing Chabvumurambo after her failings were brought to light.

The radiographer had previously been given a final warning after performing an X-ray on the wrong child in July 2012.

A Health and Care Professions Council hearing was told she took only partial identity checks before taking the child in for X-ray. She then received a call asking why the actual patient waiting to be seen had not yet been treated.

Almost a year later, in April 2013, the radiographer made another serious gaffe when an arm brace which was removed from a patient with a fractured wrist was not returned after going for X-ray. Mrs Chabvumurambo left for the day without re-attaching it.

Mistakes

On the same shift, she produced an X-ray image which was not of diagnostic quality – and then did not carry out the required X-ray or mention it when she finished her shift, the panel heard.

The radiographer was struck off for 12 months after experts decided she was not fit to work in hospitals as they could not be confident she would not make more mistakes.

The panel said she had 'failed to identify in what way she has addressed her lack of competence and how the failings would not be repeated in the future'.

Mrs Chabvumurambo, who did not attend the hearing, had worked for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust since 2010 until she resigned in June 2013.

Following the hearing, panel chair Jennifer Rogers said: "The panel was of the view that Mrs Chabvumurambo's fitness to practise remains impaired. She has yet to demonstrate that she has remedied the failings that were identified by the previous panel."

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust declined to comment.

War hero meets youngsters at school



Iraq war veteran and fundraiser Karl Hinett visits Old Park Special School and shows pupil Dominic an Olympic torch

A BLACK Country war hero brought a smile to the faces of youngsters during a visit to a special school.

Karl Hinett brought his Olympic torch along to Old Park Special School in Brierley Hill, which he carried in the run-up to London 2012.

Karl, from Tipton, suffered 37 per cent burns to his hands, limbs and face after his tank was petrol-bombed in Iraq in 2005. He has since gone on to take part in

a range of fundraising events and visited the school to talk about his experiences.

School leaders were also keen to show pupils people can still achieve their dreams despite suffering adversity.

Teacher Rose White said: "We wanted him to come in following the end of the Paralympics as he has carried the torch for both the Olympics and the Paralympics and we asked if he would bring his torch with him. One of the children asked

him how long it has been since he was injured and what the weight of the torch was.

"The main ethos of Karl coming in was 'you can do it' and that you can overcome anything and be successful."

Since leaving the army Karl has dedicated much of his time to fundraising for the charity at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, completing several races, including in the Alps and Bavarian mountains.

Dangerous wrong-way driver sent to prison

A BANNED motorist drove into trouble when he was spotted at the wheel of a car in an area of Sandwell from which he was banned, a judge heard.

He later drove on the wrong side of the road and the wrong way around a roundabout to evade capture.

Klinton Sulag, from Tividale, was in breach of an Anti Social Behaviour Order when spotted in Smethwick.

He ignored an order to stop by police officers and accelerated away from the patrol which saw him in Suffrage Street on August 17.

The VW Golf driven by the 23-year-old was seen the following day on Oldbury Ringway, said Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting. Sulag suddenly threw the car into reverse as a police officer walked towards the stationary saloon.

The defendant made a U-turn, crossed the central reservation and drove off at speed, breaking the 30mph speed limit, driving on the wrong side of the road and the wrong way around a traffic island.

He was arrested after being spotted walking along the side of the road soon afterwards. The Golf was found nearby.

Miss Jodie Smith, defending, said: "The driving fell well below the expected standard but thankfully no injury was caused."

Sulag, from Poplar Avenue, admitted dangerous driving, driving whilst disqualified and breaching the terms of an Anti Social Behaviour Order.

He was jailed for 15 months and banned from driving for a further three years.

5,000 street lights changeover starts

SANDWELL Council has started updating 5,000 street lights across its borough with new low energy LED bulbs, which they say will save £120,000.

As well as the savings they hope to make from the more efficient lights, the authority says the change will help it to achieve its aim of reducing carbon emissions too.

The new LED bulbs use 74 per cent less energy than the bulbs that they are replacing.

According to the council the LED bulbs are also virtually maintenance free and should last up to 25 years, compared with the usual lifespan of six to seven years for a standard street light.

The work started at the end of August 2016 but is continuing to be carried out until the end of January 2017.

Metal legends Iron Maiden play Brum

HEAVY metal veterans Iron Maiden will visit Birmingham Barclaycard Arena next year. The Book of Souls tour visits on May 21 and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday). Iron Maiden had a UK number one single in 1990 with Bring Your Daughter To The Slaughter.

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Residents in meetings with police over crime

RESIDENTS in an area of Stourbridge say they are worried about the lack of a police presence on their streets, in the midst of a spate of burglaries.

Concerns have been raised about a rise in crime, with homeowners on the Caledonia Estate in Lye complaining officers are not seen often enough in the area.

The Caledonia Residents Association has highlighted that in the last two weeks there have been several burglaries and other thefts in the area.

Chairwoman of the Caledonia Residents association, Gaynor Spencer said: "We are starting to see an increase in burglaries in the Lye and Stourbridge areas."

Inspector Ray James from West Midlands Police held a meeting with the association.

Ms Spencer said: "We discussed the lack of police presence over the past few years and we politely advised him that police relations with the local community had fallen, and that most people had no faith any more in our local police."

"Hopefully we can help to restore community relations over the next few years."

"They are now finding themselves understaffed and have had to spread very thinly over a larger area."

Association members will also be attending the next police and communities meeting on October 12 at 7pm at Lye Town Football Club.

Scissors threat to bank cashier

A THUG threatened a cashier with a pair of scissors during a robbery at a branch of Lloyds Bank in the Black Country.

The crook struck at the bank in Cradley Heath at around 10.20am on September 20. Brandishing a pair of scissors he demanded money from the cashier at the High Street branch.

Kate Baker, for West Midlands Police, said: "A man demanded money from a cashier before fleeing with a quantity of cash."

A Lloyds Bank spokesman said: "We can confirm an incident took place at our Cradley Heath branch. As a police investigation is ongoing, we are unable to comment further."

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Proposals for 18 homes at Stewkins

EIGHTEEN homes are set to be built off the main A491 in Stourbridge.

The plans are for the two-bedroom homes in Stewkins, Audnam. The proposals will now be assessed by planners at Dudley Council.

Tributes to referee who reached the top



Whistle in hand, cup final ref Ken Burns

FROM Buffery Park in Dudley to the European Cup at Bayern Munich's Olympiastadion München less than 20 years later - Black Country referee Ken Burns was a football official who rose to the very top of his game.

He is also believed to have been the youngest league referee, officiating a game at Mansfield Town's Field Mill aged 30.

The 85-year-old, who retired from officiating in 1978, has died following a battle with cancer. He lived in the Stourbridge area all his life.

He served for 17 years as a football

league referee and nine years at international level.

His brother, Peter Burns, said: "He liked to see fair play, he always wanted to let sides play without the constant blowing of the whistle."

"He wanted the crowd to be entertained but, of course, being a referee, there was sometimes controversy."

Ken was born in Dudley in 1931, and attended Dudley Grammar School. He played football locally for a team called Blowers Green Rangers.

He was called up to National Service aged 18 and was stationed in

Bishops Auckland, where he continued to play until injury.

Arguably the most famous game he officiated was the FA Cup Final between Leeds and Sunderland in 1973. He also officiated three European Cup quarter finals including Bayern Munich's victory against Ajax in 1973.

He was President of the Referees' Association for 10 years between 1972 to 82 and later a referee assessor for FIFA.

His brother Peter added: "He was a tremendous person who was dedicated to the game."

Scientist is making a stand against cancer

A SCIENTIST from Stourbridge, who is researching ways to improve cancer treatment, has teamed up with a national charity and TV's Channel 4 after surviving the disease herself.

Dr Beth Lucas, aged 27, was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma at the age of 24, while in the final year of her PhD at the University of Birmingham.

Working with Professor Graham Anderson and Dr William Jenkinson at the University of Birmingham, Beth's research receives support from the Stand Up To Cancer campaign. It seeks to benefit patients who need bone marrow transplants as part of their treatment.

Beth, who is in remission, is aware that she may need a bone marrow transplant if her cancer returns. She first noticed something was wrong in September 2014 when she discovered a lump near her collarbone. She said: "It felt a bit like an olive under my skin but you couldn't see it. I had no other symptoms except for itchy skin, which at the time I'd attributed to an allergy. I became concerned it might be lymphoma."

"Once the initial shock was over, I tried to put a brake on the emotions because I knew I had to get through whatever was needed to save my life."

Chemotherapy

Beth was treated with chemotherapy for four months, leaving her tired and nauseous and resulting in hair loss. The treatment weakened her immune system, which meant she was highly susceptible to infections.

"In addition to coming to terms with my diagnosis, I also had to think about my future fertility," said Beth. "I always knew I would want to start a family at some point and was given the opportunity to freeze eggs or embryos before starting chemotherapy. It was suddenly a critical decision that needed to be made quickly."

After completing her PhD, Beth went on to work as a post-doctoral research fellow under Prof Anderson, looking at ways to boost the immune system following stem cell transplantation. Their work is supported by Stand Up To Cancer, as well as the Medical Research Council.

"I'm passionate about wanting to make a difference in medical research," said Beth. "Being a patient myself has reinforced the importance of the research we're doing."

Launched in 2012, Stand Up To Cancer has raised more than £25 million towards innovation in cancer treatment. Channel 4 will devote an evening of live TV coverage to the campaign on October 21.



Cancer survivor Beth Lucas is researching the disease with Professor Graham Anderson in Birmingham

Groups urged to apply for funding

AN MP has urged Black Country groups to apply for funding from two new schemes.

The £1.5 million Postcode Local Trust has opened a new round of applications for environmental projects. Meanwhile, Aviva has launched a community fund that can award up to £25,000 for local community projects.

The Aviva funding is available

for projects across a range of categories including supporting the elderly, health and wellbeing and community sport.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has written to a number of groups in the borough to make them aware of the opportunities. He has offered to support local bids for funding.

Mr Austin said: "Black Country people are the most generous

in Britain, so we have lots of brilliant local community groups and charities."

"Working with local groups we've managed to get funding for sports clubs, schools and parks. Applying for one of these funds could help get a new project off the ground, so I'm ready to throw my support behind any local groups who are interested in making a bid."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wolves skipper to open new market

WOLVES captain Danny Bath will open a new Sunday market in Dudley town centre this weekend.

The Brierley Hill-born defender will launch the outdoor market along with Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif. It will be held on the Flood Street car park for the first time this Sunday.

Stalls will be open every Sunday from 10am to 4pm and will include a variety of produce, clothing, crafts and antiques.

Bath, aged 26, has made nearly 150 appearances for Wanderers.

Plan to demolish pub for housing

A PUB in Sedgley will be knocked down under new plans which would see eight homes being built in its place.

The Leopard Inn, on Dudley Road, will be bulldozed if the plans get the backing of councillors. New properties would be built on the site of the pub and its 46-space car park.

Three sets of semi-detached houses would be built facing Dudley Road while other properties would be created looking onto Valley Road, under the plans submitted by Ling Developments to Dudley Council planners.

Scarycanary date for Bluetones man

A SINGER-SONGWRITER who fronted a popular 1990s band will be performing in Stourbridge next month.

Bluetones frontman Mark Morris will be taking to the stage of Scarycanary The Venue, on High Street, on October 1.

New songs and Bluetones favourites will be performed on the night. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10. Doors open 7pm. To book visit www.wegotickets.com/event/367523

Coffee and cake with MP to help Macmillan

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood will be taking part in The World's Biggest Coffee Morning event to raise money for cancer charity Macmillan.

The event will take place at his new constituency office in Wordsley, 111A High Street, tomorrow (Friday), running from 10am to 2pm.

It is being held as part of Macmillan national awareness campaign which is run every year. Turn up on the day to take part and make a small donation for a coffee and slice of cake.

Studio raid arrest

A STOURBRIDGE man has been arrested after a break-in at Black Country Radio. Police were called to the voluntary-run station's premises at St John's United Reform Church in Stourbridge on September 9. "A 38-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of burglary," said police.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HOW low interest rates work. A friend foolishly forgot to take a bag to the supermarket and had to buy a plastic bag for 5p. He suddenly realised 5p was exactly the monthly income on his savings account.

WE were in Yorkshire to meet up with the extended family and pay tribute to a relative, Private Alvin Smith, who was killed in the Battle of the Somme exactly 100 years ago, aged just 20. The event was neither showy nor maudlin, just the laying of a posy and a photograph at the village war memorial. And if 100 years seems a long time ago, consider this. The population is growing older and the number of centenarians increases by hundreds every year. Believe it or not, there are more than 14,000 British people alive today who were alive in September 1916 when Private Smith was alive. Not so long ago, after all.

OUR trip to Yorkshire caught one of those wonderful Indian summer weekends. The Dales shimmered in the heat and canalside Skipton was as pretty as a little Venice and nowhere near as smelly. We stayed in a cottage by a swing-bridge on the Leeds & Liverpool canal and sipped chilled wine in a grime-stained stone courtyard as the narrowboats bumbled by.

What is it about boats? The moment people climb aboard they start waving at other people. If you were both on solid ground and this close, folk would think you mad. But bring a boat into the equation and the waving begins. Cooeey! Most odd.

THERE is a cynical old saying in journalism that bad news is good news. For Remoaners, however, it works the other way: good news is bad news. And this week's think-tank report showing Britain is doing fine after the Brexit vote is the worst of all news. The bad-loser tendency is now clutching to the straw that, if Armageddon has not yet happened, it will soon, just you wait and see. As one contributor to the Guardian website puts it lyrically: "What is their world if it does not have a sky that is forever imminently falling?"

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Rate cut failed to coax firms to Waterfront

ONLY one firm has taken up a Dudley Council scheme offering reduced business rates since the move to boost the Waterfront at Brierley Hill was introduced two years ago.

The Dudley Business Investment Zone was launched to revive a once-thriving business area and aimed to create 1,600 jobs.

The council has confirmed that just one firm has benefited from a cut in business rates since 2014. The half-a-million pound scheme aimed to bring businesses to the 20,000 sq ft site in return for a cut in business rates.

But bosses at the council said other businesses were 'in the process of securing the benefits of the scheme'.

The scheme was first suggested five years ago to boost the half empty Waterfront development next to Dudley's Merry Hill Centre when it was suggested some of the Waterfront car parks could be developed as offices and industrial units.

Firms that quit the Waterfront included banking giant Egg and Virgin Media.

Now council bosses say that focus has shifted from the Business Investment Zone to the Government-backed Enterprise Zone, which is set to be created at the Waterfront, bringing thousands of jobs.

The data was revealed by the council under the Freedom of Information Act.

The authority also said the original scheme had been hampered by a change

By Richard Guttridge

in ownership at the nearby Merry Hill shopping centre.

A spokesman said: "Originally the intention had been to have a more formal management group with Westfield but this stalled as a result of a change in ownership at the centre and initial discussions with Intu have focused to the degree on our aspirations around a Government sponsored Enterprise Zone."

Around 7,000 jobs are anticipated when Chancellor Philip Hammond signs off plans to make the Waterfront the 'high tech office hub' of the Black Country.

Dudley's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "It is obviously disappointing people aren't making the most of these opportunities. But there are things in the pipeline and maybe people are waiting for those plans to come into place."

Some of the offices at the Waterfront have been converted into apartments.

Police issue image of suspect



Image of the man sought in connection with a burglary

POLICE have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to identify as part of an investigation into a house burglary in Halesowen.

Officers say that during the early hours of July 23, a house on Huntingtree Road was broken into.

A number of items were stolen from the premises including a car and bank cards.

The stolen bank cards were used later that same day by a man at a BP petrol station in the Halesowen area.

West Midlands Police now want to identify a man whose image has been captured via CCTV cameras whilst he was using the stolen cards.

Information

Anyone with information regarding the man should contact Detective Constable Gareth Homer at Dudley Police.

The public can get in touch with Det Con Homer direct by emailing him at g.homer@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk, and by quoting the crime number 20DY/141287Y/16.

Prepare for spooky fun at the safari park

STAFF at a Worcestershire attraction are getting ready to host an annual spooky spectacular event and this year there are two new attractions to experience.

The month-long festival at West Midland Safari Park starts on October 1 and includes a new adventure called Dino Quest.

Explorers will have to make their way around Land of the Living Dinosaurs, searching for the missing dinosaur. They must find it before the Mad Scientist, who is also on the hunt to capture the dinosaur. The only help the explorers will receive is clues from the characters they meet on their way and they will only have torchlight to guide them through.

Also new for Halloween 2016 at the attraction between Kidderminster and Bewdley is Chaos at Crocuar Castle, which is a puppet show where families can meet an array of creepy critters and help to rescue a princess.

Park events officer Laura Henson said the new entertainments offer something for everyone.

She said: "Our Spooky Spectacular event opens to visitors from Saturday, October 1, and runs all the way through to Halloween. Moving into its seventh year we have new and exciting attractions to offer everyone. From the late-night rides, to themed shows and spooky trails, we have it all."

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Barratt Homes back morning for Macmillan

EMPLOYEES at Barratt Homes are getting ready to take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning tomorrow (Friday) and thereby offer their support to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Barratt Homes West Midlands staff are planning to set up a coffee morning at its head office in Halesowen to raise money for the charity, which aims to improve the lives of people and their families affected by cancer.

Adrian Farr, managing director for Barratt Homes West Midlands, said, "Our hard-working staff want to do something a little different on their tea break on Friday.

"Holding a communal coffee morning is a great way to show our support for the valuable work being done by Macmillan Cancer Support.

"We want to help Macmillan raise as much money as they can to support those who are affected by cancer and we encourage everyone to join in and do the same, so that together we can make the World's Biggest Coffee Morning even bigger and better than ever."

As well as providing hot drinks, the staff will be contributing a selection of cakes and other treats available to purchase for a small donation at the event in Whitehall Road. All money raised will go to Macmillan.

Examining problems with family research

THE next meeting of Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry is on Wednesday, October 5, 7.30pm at the Birmingham and Midland Institute in Margaret Street. The theme is 'Up the Garden Path', about mistakes when researching family history. Call Jackie Cotterill on 01562 743912 or visit www.bmsg.org

5p bag fund goes to help borough nature projects

All-star players in charity match



Team captains Jody Craddock and Matt Smith, centre, with the fundraising teams before the charity football match

HUNDREDS of spectators turned up at Stourbridge Football Club to watch a charity match featuring a Wolves All Star team.

The former Wolves players, captained by centre-half turned painter Jody Craddock, battled to a 2-2 draw against a team of emergency department workers from Russells Hall Hospital.

The annual match is to raise money

for the emergency department at the Dudley hospital.

In the past two years the match has raised a whopping £24,000 with plenty of corporate sponsorship and help from the Steve Bull foundation.

Children

Last year some of the money raised went towards buying iPads so children attending the A&E would have some-

thing to help take their mind off why they were there.

The organisers, who are yet to count this year's total, are hoping to have raised a good sum.

Karen Phillips, fundraising manager for Dudley Group NHS Charity, said: "It went really well, even if the weather was not great. It was a good turnout which we were pleased with. It's our main fundraiser."

THE 5p plastic bag levy is enabling thousands of pounds to go towards two Dudley Council nature reserves and a community garden project.

Saltwells Nature Reserve, Fens Pool Nature Reserve and the Growing Our Community Together project will each receive a minimum of £8,000 under the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. It's being run by the supermarket and charity Groundwork.

Shoppers can boost the amount for each project to £10,000 or £12,000 by voting in participating Tesco stores.

The money will be used to create a new sculpture trail at Saltwells Nature Reserve and to make improvements to footpaths and signs around the Buckpool at Fens Pool Nature Reserve.

Orchard

Growing Our Community Together, which is a mutual collaboration between Brockmoor Primary School and the Friends of Marsh Park and Lawley's Field.

It will utilise the money to create a community garden and orchard with new fruit trees, as well as a new learning zone for school pupils.

People can vote at the Cradley Heath Extra store and the Rowley Regis Express store for the sculpture trail. They can also vote at Tesco stores on Bromley Lane, Moss Grove and Kingswinford High Street for the community garden or the Fens Pool project. Voting is open in stores using checkout tokens until October 9.

Councillor Hilary Bills, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We're thrilled that our bids have been successful and we're asking the local community to vote for us, so that we can make these exciting improvements to our much loved green spaces."

Money raised for RNLI after sea tragedy

MORE than £1,500 has been raised in memory of a Black Country man who died after being swept out to sea.

Luke Morton, of Bearwood, died after he was hit by a wave while standing on rocks near Cardigan in south Wales.

His family launched a fundraising drive for the RNLI after the lifeboat service searched for Mr Morton, aged 23, who went to school in Halesowen, after he went missing on August 7. So far, £1,600 has been raised on the Just Giving fundraising page.

His family, on the page, said: "The RNLI did everything in their powers to try and save his life. They attended within minutes and didn't stop, not even in poor conditions, and continued their search for days after. Sadly Luke's body was found nearly four weeks later."

Visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/LukeMortonRNLI

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Cyclists are saddled with wrong impression

AFTER finally achieving his lifetime ambition of becoming England manager, it defies belief that Black Country lad Sam Allardyce has been so stupid as to throw it all away after being caught out by an undercover reporter.

Aside from the fact that a man who is paid £3 million a year for the job he coveted has lost it by chasing an extra £400,000, he was also subjected to an undercover sting by the BBC's Panorama just 10 years ago. Had he really learned nothing?

Two months ago the pride in and around the Black Country was palpable when Allardyce spoke about his upbringing in Dudley. Today, people will feel rather sad and disappointed.

AFTER decades of banning imports, the Argentinians have suddenly declared they are open for business and ready to trade with us. Apparently, there is a big demand over there for our tea.

Don't know why, but I'm not really convinced the natives of Buenos Aires are ready to start their day with a mug of English breakfast tea. They'll just change the name and claim it was theirs all along.

IN the crucible of informed and reasoned debate that is Twitter – only joking – it seems my comments about bad bike riders have led to a few angry cyclists getting their Lycra in a twist.

The best one labelled me a "trollumn-is", which I thought was rather good.

Others, mostly from other parts of the country, were less erudite. Some are under the impression that I (a) dislike cyclists, and (b) defend inconsiderate driving.

They are both wrong. Actually, I thought I was on pretty solid ground because a friend, a responsible cyclist, complained about idiots who jump red lights giving him a bad name.

It's funny, but the only other time this column provoked any Twitter indignation was when it suggested there was no need to change pavement-parking laws.

I didn't think that was controversial either, but again, it was militant cyclists who got the hump.

Looking at the Twitter profiles, it seems pedal-pushers fall into two categories.

The vast majority are ordinary people who simply enjoy their hobby and want to get along with other road users. Then there are those angry-looking men in big goggles who don't see cycling as a hobby, but as a cause. Their Twitter feed is packed with photos of errant van drivers and traffic-management schemes. They don't seem to be enjoying themselves.

I think the gist of my message is that cycling is virtuous, to be encouraged at all costs, and that there are never bad cyclists, only bad drivers. I've seen a fair few of both over the years, and don't have much sympathy with either.



With a Heart of England in Bloom award is Halesowen in Bloom chair Eve O'Connor



All smiles as Halesowen in Bloom win the Gold-Urban Community award

Flower power blooms with awards galore

It's a time for celebrations for the golden stars of the Heart of England competition, as Judith Hawkins reports

SO many towns, parks and pubs in the Black Country are celebrating floral success, the region should perhaps be renamed the Blooming Country.

No less than a dozen places star in this year's Heart of England in Bloom competition.

Towns and pubs in Staffordshire and Worcestershire also picked up gongs at the event hosted by Walsall Council.

There were a total of 220 delegates from villages, towns and urban communities attending the presentation in the Church Rooms of the Parish Church of Aldridge.

Also there were 43 entrants in the hotel and pub grounds category and 18 from parks, cemeteries and crematoriums.

Effort

Chairman of Heart of England in Bloom, Roger Bache stated "Entrants give a lot of time and effort to make where they live and work a nicer, safer place to be and are very proud when they receive their prestigious awards."

Heart of England in Bloom is the regional element of the Britain in Bloom Campaign organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, RHS, which encourages communities to work together to improve and enhance their local environment.

For the second time Halesowen was among the gold award winners.

Eve O'Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, hailed the help of community volunteers in Halesowen's bid to securing the top prize. She said: "Everybody put a lot of hard work into getting the award, and a lot of vol-



Aldridge goes through to the Britain in Bloom finals after getting gold

unteers contributed to getting the gold by doing all sorts of jobs throughout Halesowen to ensure we achieved the mark.

"Volunteers constructed a 20ft narrow boat, which will now reside in the town for a number of years for people to enjoy. It was a blooming show stopper for us.

"It was a community competition, everyone worked together and it was like glue, bringing everybody together."

Meanwhile it was double success for Stafford in the parks category. Victoria Park

claimed a silver while Stonefield Park earned a silver-gilt.

Borough councillor Mike Smith, cabinet member for leisure, said: "This is a fantastic achievement. A tremendous amount of hard work is put in to ensure our parks rank among the very best in the country."

Among the other winners in the villages, towns, urban communities and cities categories was Aldridge which was named winners in its respective categories.

Gold winners included Bridgnorth, Brown-

hills, Halesowen and Stone. Silver-gilt honours went to Lichfield, Bloxwich, Colwich & Little Haywood, Darlaston, Great Haywood and Willenhall. Amblecote and Wednesfield both took home silver awards.

In the parks, cemeteries and crematoriums categories, Bridgnorth Cemetery and Castle Grounds also in Bridgnorth both earned a gold, alongside the success seen in Stafford.

There was a long list of winners in the hotel and pub grounds category.

Golds went to Lime Contemporary Indian Cuisine in Sedgley, Hogarths Stone Manor in Kidderminster, The Billiard Hall in West Bromwich, The Bloxwich Showman, The Britannia, Rowley Regis, The Clifton in Sedgley, The Lamp Restaurant & Bar in Wednesbury, The Moon Under Water, in Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth's The Old Castle Inn.

The Red Lion in Little Haywood and The Royal Tiger in Wednesfield celebrated silver-gilts, while The George Hotel in Bewdley was awarded a silver.

Proud

Following the Heart of England in Bloom competition, overall winners in each category go through to the national finals, also held by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Other category winners were Biddulph in Staffordshire which won in the large town group. Birmingham City Council won in the large city band. Newcastle-under-Lyme won in the small city band. Studley in Warwickshire won in the small town group, Uttoxeter won in the town category.

Upton-upon-Severn in Worcestershire picked up gold in the large village category.

It has also been a proud month for gardeners, allotment keepers, and green fingered residents as hundreds had their work recognised at another awards ceremony – the Heart of England in Bloom and Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood Awards held in Ludlow.

Groups in Albrighton, Shrewsbury and Telford bagged recognition among the 142 groups and projects across the Midlands.

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Lack of a response over bowling greens

IN September 2015 the green care department informed members of the only two flat green bowling clubs in the borough, that their fees for the 2017 season – due to ‘cutbacks’ – could be rising by anything between 700 to 1,000 per cent.

The clubs responded by suggesting, that if the bowling green could be ‘loaned’ to them on a ten year tenure and a peppercorn reservation fee, they would be responsible for repairs and maintenance of the green.

This was welcomed by the officers and numerous councillors, as it meant

that a council asset would be maintained in an excellent condition at no cost to council funds.

Since then there has been no official acceptance or refusal from the council. There was a suggestion that the present arrangements could be kept as they were but it did not take into account that some preparatory work needs to be carried out before the autumn maintenance work is commenced and the council have no funds for that.

These are some of the excuses that have been suggested to explain the delay in council responding: It is with

the legal department. Why? Loaning of the green is not against any conditions of the deed of gift. It is the Mary Stevens Trust who should make the decision. Why? The trust is a management committee and the council of the day accepted the gift and, as this council was absorbed into Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, the present council should make the decision.

It beggars belief as to why there has been no response from our supposedly ‘cash strapped’ council.

G H DOWNING
Brierley Hill

Service is important for elderly

I AM a volunteer with Age UK Dudley. My role is visiting the lonely, isolated and having a chat and a cuppa with my clients who are with the good neighbour scheme.

I have a client who I could see he was not well. I asked him to visit the doctors, he declined. I told him I was worried about him. I went to his home the following day, he told me he had made an appointment. On his visit to the doctors he was admitted on that day to hospital.

My client is out of hospital and keeping well.

If the good neighbour scheme closes down who will keep a check on the elderly? My client’s situation would have been a different story.

Who could we blame, the central Government? Don’t be silly, we are just a number.

Without funding, the services we provide will either close or downsize.

MRS J BENNETT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Callous decision will have a major impact

I WAS disgusted to read (The Chronicle, September 8) that Councillor Asif Ahmed and his associates, the so-called representatives of the people, had given permission to convert the vacant Beech Tree House Care Home into a 22-bed house for multiple occupants (HMO) – despite widespread protests from angry residents and ‘potential crime magnet’ concerns from West Midlands Police.

I have been to numerous neighbourhood watch meetings where I have heard many tales of misery relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, noise and disturbance, drug-related problems and devaluation of neighbouring properties when pubs, shops and houses have been converted into HMOs.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the unfortunate residents in this case won the lottery and, having bought the properties surrounding Mr Ahmed and his associates, converted them into HMOs then flooded them with undesirables.

Perhaps then any inept decision makers on the council would realise what an adverse impact their callous judgements have on the lives of decent people.

DAVE JONES
Brierley Hill

All that is left of a life is a medal

PETER Rhodes’ story concerning the gathering of his extended family to remember the death of his grandfather’s brother in the First World War is, I fear, far from the norm for most who lost their lives.

I have a medal from the 1939-45 war awarded to an unknown (to me) soldier who lost his life during that war.

The medal, which is unworn, came in a box measuring three inches by two and a half inches, together with a message from the War Office which reads: ‘The Army Council has the honour to transmit the enclosed medal of service in the war of 1939-45 and share your sorrow that Pte J H Willis did not live to receive it.’

I guess that this was the fate of many who lost their lives, one useless medal and a message from the Army Council for one life that is now forgotten.

G A PETERS
Brierley Hill

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British Gas staff facing redundancy given advice

BRITISH Gas workers facing the axe are being supported by public bodies from across the Black Country.

In April the firm revealed proposals to close its office at Swallowfield One in Oldbury in a move that would see 684 workers made redundant. The company's call centre will close in the coming months.

Councils in Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall have joined forces with Jobcentre Plus and the National Careers Service to support those affected and help them find new careers. They will lead a series of events, support sessions and jobs fairs at the company's base in Oldbury.

Sandwell Council Leader, Councillor Steve Eling, said: "We have worked closely with British Gas who have welcomed all of our staff onto the site to hold workshops, advice sessions and one-to-one support for workers faced with redundancy."

"We are helping people secure future employment and training which is a fantastic for those who were otherwise facing a worrying future."

Report by Rob Cox

the majority of staff affected by the British Gas redundancies are from Sandwell and Dudley, with the remainder from the surrounding areas.

Council staff from all four local authorities have been running a five days a week 'opportunities centre' to help staff search for jobs.

Staff have also benefited from CV building, one-to-one advice, interview preparation and training opportunities and free training has been made available, funded by JobCentre Plus.

Anyone who is affected by the redundancies at British Gas, or anybody who needs support to find a job or training, should email enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 2099 for advice.

Canal festival is a cut above the rest



Boaters at the biennial Parkhead Canal Festival in Dudley, which attracted 70 narrowboats

HUNDREDS of people went down to the water as a popular festival returned to Dudley. More than 70 narrowboats lined up as the Parkhead Canal Festival took centre stage once again.

The biennial event also featured a range of historic working boats, while up on dry land there were an array of vintage and classic cars. Stalls were also set up at the canal side selling various produce.

Some festival favourites returned, including the competitive plastic duck race. A horse-drawn boat was also part of the show, with mare Caroline doing the honours up on the towpath.

The festival, held along the Dudley No 1 Canal, at Parkhead Locks, has always proved popular over the years.

Visitors were given the chance to board the boats and sample some old-fashioned Black Country life. A model railway exhibition was also on display.

The festival was organised by the Dudley Canal Trust and the Worcester, Birmingham and Droitwich Canal Society and ran on Saturday and Sunday.

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Jail term cut for cruel and violent daughter

A CRUEL daughter who fleeced her 82-year-old father out of £17,500, and kicked and punched him during a vicious attack at his home, has had her jail term reduced.

Davina Delo, aged 48, of Ivanhoe Street, Dudley, assumed control of David Glass' finances in 2009 after the death of his wife.

After she married David Joseph Delo, 44, of Brook Street, Dudley, they moved in with her father in Telford.

Between May 2011 and June 2014, she withdrew around £17,500 from the widower's account, Mrs Justice Simler told London's Appeal Court.

She spent the money on herself and her husband, mostly on alcohol and cigarettes. Her father's household bills went unpaid, resulting in utilities being cut off and large debts, and the house became 'shoddy and squalid'.

Funeral

In June 2014, a funeral and wake took place following the death of Davina Delo's young son, the judge said.

There was a disagreement between Mr Glass and his daughter and son-in-law and the older man went home.

After consuming alcohol the couple went home too and, after Mr Glass refused to let them back in, David Delo repeatedly punched him.



David Glass recovering in hospital after an attack by his daughter and son-in-law

Davina Delo then kicked her father to the face and head and, even after a neighbour helped him to his feet, she punched him once more.

Mr Glass said he would 'never recover' psychologically.

He left his home and went to live with another daughter.

Davina Delo admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm and fraud and was locked up for six years three months at Shrewsbury Crown Court on August 26 last year.

The judge who jailed her described her crimes as 'shocking' and pointed

to the 'systematic exploitation' of her 'vulnerable' father.

But her lawyers argued her punishment was too tough and three Appeal Court judges this week cut her sentence to five years four months. Mrs Justice Simler, sitting with Lord Justice Burnett and Mr Justice William Davis, said the sentence for the fraud offence was too long.

David Delo had been jailed for three years seven months after admitting assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Dismissing his appeal, the judge said his punishment was 'not excessive'.

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Police trial new gadget to safeguard vulnerable

A NEW gadget to prevent vulnerable people from going missing is being trialled in Dudley.

West Midlands Police has been working with Dudley Council to introduce Pebbell trackers, which can be used by relatives or carers of people suffering from dementia to monitor their whereabouts. The gadgets have built-in GPS to pinpoint location.

Dudley Partnerships Team have received funding to pilot the Pebbell scheme with the devices being worn around the neck or attached to personal belongings, such as a bag or a dog lead. Families can text the Pebbell unit number and will receive a response which includes a map showing its location. If they call and receive no response then the device will pick up background sounds to help pinpoint surroundings.

The council has already successfully introduced the technology to some residents.

Elizabeth Orange says she has seen the benefits of the Pebbell in keeping tabs on her 61-year-old uncle, who had been reported as missing several times before receiving the device. She said: "I didn't want to stop him going out after he was diagnosed with dementia but it was a real worry when I couldn't get in touch with him. But the Pebbell is fantastic as, even if he doesn't answer his mobile, I can keep a check on where he is. It has taken a lot of the anxiety away."

Boss of social care Councillor Qadar Zada said: "The Pebbell is an innovative gadget. It can change people's lives, providing freedom to people with dementia and peace of mind to family and carers."



Telecare manager Karen Bridgwater, left, with Elizabeth Orange and police officer Andy Arnold

Coffee mornings and choral serenades

A CHOIR will be touring coffee shops in Stourbridge as part of a mobile concert raising money and awareness for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Around 40 choir members from Stourbridge-based group Got 2 Sing will be out tomorrow (Friday), offering a song in exchange for a donation to the charity.

Macmillan's biggest fundraising event of the year takes place on Friday and encourages people all over the UK to host coffee mornings in aid of the cancer charity.

Beth Dunn, director and founder of Got 2 Sing, said: "The coffee morning is a fantastic initiative. We wanted to draw as much attention for it as we could by doing what we do best."

Meanwhile, Sainsbury's Amblecote will host its coffee morning in aid of the charity tomorrow too.

The event, organised by managers Gail Thomas and Marie Cooney and café worker Coleen Shakespeare, will be held in the store foyer, between 10am and 1pm.

The trio, who are giving up their own time to run the event, will be serving up tea, coffee and light refreshments, in return for a donation to the charity.

GP surgery is rated inadequate for safety

A GP surgery has been rated inadequate for safety by a health watchdog.

A lack of criminal background checks, concerns over cervical cancer test results, and an absence of infection control training were all identified by CQC inspectors at the Dr W Porter surgery, also known as St James Medical Practice on Malthouse Drive in Dudley.

The surgery has more than 2,200 patients, according to NHS Choices.

The CQC report states: "We found many gaps in the record keeping for staff files.

Records were not in place to provide assurance that appropriate recruitment checks had been completed for both non-clinical and clinical members of the practice team.

"We also found that there were no records of completed DBS checks for members of the nursing team."

Medicines

It continued: "Uptake for cervical screening was below average, during our inspection we also found that the practice did not consistently follow an effective fail-safe system for cervical screening tests to ensure that test results had been received for every sample sent by the practice."

The CQC inspectors also reported that improvements are needed in the monitoring of high-risk medicines. As well as the 'inadequate' rating for safety, the practice was graded 'requires improvement' for effectiveness of services and whether services are well-led.

By Judith Hawkins

"We found that essential training such as infection control principles was not included in the induction programme," the report stated in relation to whether services are effective.

Highlighting the leadership concerns, the CQC report added: "We found that in some areas governance arrangements were not robust." However the GP surgery was rated as good for being both caring and responsive.

Praising the practice, the CQC inspectors added: "Staff spoken with demonstrated a commitment to providing a high-quality service."

"Throughout our inspection there was a strong theme of positive feedback from staff and staff commented that they felt valued and part of a close practice team. The practice encouraged a culture of openness and honesty."

The surgery was contacted for a response to the report but none received by the time of going to print.

Wedding venue is open for public view

COUPLES looking for a wedding venue have been invited to an open day at the newly refurbished Thomas Robinson building in Stourbridge.

Dudley Registrars are organising the open day to give future brides and grooms the chance to find out what is on offer – and they could also be in with the chance of winning their wedding.

Couples can look around the recently renovated Lye and Wollescote Chapels, now called The Thomas Robinson building, on Saturday, October 8. Everyone attending on the day is eligible to enter a prize draw to win a free wedding ceremony at the historic venue.

The Victorian grade II listed buildings has undergone substantial work to turn it into a new registration office for civil ceremonies.

The open day at the venue in Cemetery Road, Lye, runs from 10am to 4pm. Call (01384) 815373.



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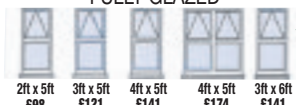
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Well-wishers go online to raise cash for victim

'WE are all astounded with
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people have been so kind.'

The heartfelt words of Diane
Weston after support flooded in
for her terminally-ill father Roy
who was mugged for his pension
in Brierley Hill.

A crowdfunding page set up in the
wake of the cowardly attack has sur-
passed £450, as generous folk rally
around in support of the 78-year-old.

Police are investigating the robbery
after a man and woman pounced on
Roy outside Pepe's hairdressers in
High Street on September 12.

The page was set up by Dave Webb,
who also suffers from cancer, after
reading about the incident which left
Roy badly shaken. Roy was robbed of
his and his wife's pension after collect-
ing it from a post office.

His daughter Diane, 49, said: "We
are all astounded with the support. We
can't believe people have been so kind.
I would like to thank everyone for all
the kind wishes, it has really helped
my parents. My dad feels a lot better."

Roy was diagnosed with terminal
prostate cancer last year.

Money

Mr Webb, 58, who lives in Kent, de-
cided to set up a fundraising page for
Roy and plans to travel to Dudley to
present the money to Roy and his fam-
ily when the fundraising is complete.

He said: "When I read of poor Roy's
plight online, one reader mentioned
that there should be a justgiving page,
so I did just that and set one up. It
annoys me that people could think to
rob a pensioner, let alone one who was
terminally ill. The fundraising page
runs for another 22 days. I'll make
sure every penny is given to Roy and
his lovely wife Maureen."

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Roy Weston and his wife Maureen's pension money was stolen by violent muggers

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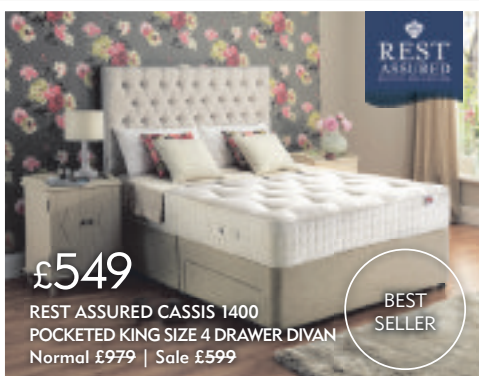
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Flying Scotsman at Severn Valley Railway in Bridgnorth, preparing to depart

Flying Scotsman steams in for a memorable visit

"THIS is what we've been waiting for. There is something about steam and the sound of Flying Scotsman that you feel in your soul. This is a once in a lifetime experience."

The words of excited passengers, Michael and Anita Mears, who boarded the famous engine as it made its highly-anticipated arrival at The Severn Valley Railway last week.

More than 15,000 people took a trip on the impressive locomotive over the five-day Pacific Power event.

Thousands more flocked to the stations and to viewing points at fields along the valley to catch a glimpse of the famous loco.

Flying Scotsman returned to the SVR for the first time in 22 years after a £4.2 million restoration earlier this year.

Passengers dressed in-keeping with the 1930s heritage theme with feather boas, bowler hats and sequinned gowns.

Vivian Findlay and Rhian Garbett-Edwards had travelled from Droitwich with work colleagues to experience the thrill.

Mrs Findlay, aged 60, wore a purple dress with elegant art deco jewellery. She said: "Flying Scotsman is the most famous locomotive in the world and everyone has heard of it. This will be something that we won't be able to do again and we can't wait to get on board and mingle with people and see all the different outfits."

Ms Garbett-Edwards, aged 60, spoke of the nostalgia.

Popular

She said: "Everyone wants to feel part of that by-gone era today and what a better way to do that than by boarding The Flying Scotsman."

"With television shows such as Downton Abbey bringing the past back too; it's no wonder that an event like this is so popular."

Deb Hipkiss, aged 49, from Wolverhampton said: "This is something we have waited for all year. To see it pull into the station was great, but to go on board I'm sure will be even better."

Three sisters from Oxfordshire had also made the trip to Kidderminster for belated birthday celebrations. Sue Grant, aged 60, said: "Me and my sisters Lesley and Gillian went around charity shops to find vintage clothing to dress up today."

"There's just something about steam and the nostalgia it brings and we thought this would be the perfect way to celebrate my birthday."

The locomotive was designed by Nigel Gresley for the London North Eastern Railway (LNER) and was built in 1923 at Doncaster Railway Works.

It hauled the first ever non-stop London to Edinburgh service in May 1928, completing the journey in eight hours and 15 minutes.

It was the first steam locomotive to be officially recorded to reach 100mph in November 1934 and even starred in the film 'The Flying Scotsman' in 1929.

Columb Howell, aged 73, from Kidderminster and a founder member of the SVR, drove the locomotive on the railway in 1990. He brought a selection of old photographs with him from the day.

"To see it back here today is wonderful and very emotional too," he said.



Dennis Whiteman celebrates his 86th birthday with wife Eileen



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Travelling ticket inspector Ian Powick in the plush interior

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Gardener Pete digs tool donation for museum

GENEROUS staff at a Tipton firm surprised the Black Country Living Museum with new gardening tools after accidentally breaking a rake during a volunteering stint.

H & R ChemPharm (UK) Ltd, based near the Tipton Road attraction, sent 15 employees to volunteer for gardening work with head gardener Pete Alexander over four days. During the visit green-fingered Peter had the team getting their hands dirty restoring tree squares, edging lawns and tidying flower beds.

However, the enthusiasm from the group led to a leaf rake being broken, so a few weeks later employees showed up with a present to surprise Pete – a brand new set of tools from his ‘cream of the crop’ wish list.

Pete said: “I had all but forgotten

the incident and at the time we had a good laugh about it. I was astounded when they came in with all of tools I had been talking to them about during their visit – they got each and every single one I’d told them I needed. I can’t thank them enough, it’s such a big help to the museum.”

Richard Starkey, marketing co-ordinator at H & R ChemPharm, added: “Pete does a fantastic job in looking after the 26 acres at the museum. A slight mishap with the rake got us talking about his tools ‘wish list’ he had mentioned to a few of us involved in the volunteering. So, with help from Tom at Bob Richardson Tools & Fasteners in Dudley, from whom we sourced a selection of STIHL hand tools, we were able to make this a reality.”

H & R ChemPharm (UK) has been at Dudley Road, Tipton, since 1840.



Pete Alexander, centre, and museum boss Andrew Lovett (second left) with tool donors Nnamdi Amatobi, Richard Starkey and Tom Richardson

Boys behind girls after primary school

BOYS tend to be trailing behind girls by the time the finish primary school, according to new figures.

Key Stage 2 assessments for each local authority in the Black Country show girls outperformed boys in achieving the expected standard by the time they were 11.

Pupils tested in Wolverhampton showed the best performance locally with 52 per cent of children achieving the expected standards in reading, writing and maths, according to Department for Education figures. But the gender gap was apparent with 56 per cent of girls achieving those results compared with 48 per cent of boys.

This year’s are the first results from the new more challenging national curriculum introduced in 2014.

Less than half of pupils achieved expected standards in three Black Country boroughs. In Sandwell it was 49 per cent of pupils, in Dudley 48 per cent and in Walsall 46 per cent. The difference between the genders was marked. Only 43 per cent of boys attained the expected standards in Dudley but for girls it was 54 per cent. Stoke and Birmingham were joint worst locally with only 45 per cent of children getting the expected standard.

Police boss says give phone fines to the force

INCREASED fines from motorists using mobile phones behind the wheel should be given to police forces, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has said.

David Jamieson, who as minister for road safety a decade ago first introduced fines for the offence, says the money raised should be ploughed back into road safety projects.

He has written to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling over the issues after fines for motorists using mobile phones while driving were doubled to £200.

He warned that the force’s attempts to enforce the law will be hindered by lack of funds and resources.

He wrote: “I would ask that you work with your colleagues at the Home Office and Treasury to recognise that further cuts to our police force will cripple its capacity to enforce the Department for Transport’s commendable new measures.

Enforcement

“Furthermore, enforcement would be aided by the redirection of penalty fine proceeds to local police forces for the purpose of enforcement of road safety measures, in the same way that fines yielded from speed camera detections were between 2001 and 2010. These funds could be ring-fenced for road safety, so that offenders pay for enforcement instead of tax payers.”

Under the stricter measures, newly qualified drivers, who have a ceiling of six points for their first two

By Rob Gollledge

years on the road, could immediately lose their licence if they are caught.

The tougher sanctions are being brought in amid mounting concern about a lack of prosecutions and convictions and a failure of the public to take the offence of using a mobile phone while driving seriously.

Department for Transport says a disproportionate number of those caught using their phones behind the wheel were young, or new drivers, or both.

The increase in sanctions comes as Ministry of Justice data for the past 10 years show the number of prosecutions have halved since 2010, with 17,586 motorists charged in 2015 compared with 35,255 in 2010. The number of convictions has also halved as have fines imposed by the courts.

The department said that of 88 deaths caused by distractions in 2012, 17 were because of mobile use. In 2014 this had risen to 21 fatal accidents and 22 in 2015. Nobody was jailed as a result of any of those accidents.

MP backing German thalidomide move

A BLACK Country MP has backed a campaign for people affected by thalidomide to get fair compensation.

The drug, which was developed by German pharmaceutical company Chemie Grünenthal in 1954, was proven to cause birth defects which affected 2,000 British babies.

The German government has accepted that British thalidomiders are now entitled to apply for compensation but the process requires X-rays, proof of the mother’s ingestion of thalidomide and countless medical tests.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has signed a letter to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel calling for the process to be reformed. He said: “I welcome the German government’s commitment to compensating people affected by thalidomide here in Britain, but the difficulty of applying for compensation will mean that many lose out. I’m backing calls for an alternative application process that makes it easier to get the compensation they deserve.”

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Gill Lampe from Artizen Collectables, seen with her crafty gifts



Pudding the pirate pug guards one of the festival's boats



Ahoy! Me hearties, for Heidi Manning, who was on her pirate boat



Tipton Canal and Community Festival, which was held near Coronation Gardens



Mary Baskerville with some of her hand painted canal ware

Lots moor fun with canal festival and narrowboats

UP to 15,000 people attended Tipton's annual Canal and Community Festival recently.

The popular show saw visitors enjoy an introduction to a slice of local canal history between Malthouse Stables and Coronation Gardens, and Owen Street and Factory Locks, behind Neptune Health Park.

As well as several narrowboats on show, visitors could also browse stalls and enjoy free entertainment. Steve Downing, chair of Tipton Community Association, said the weekend event was "marvellous".

He explained: "It was a fantastic show - we started this year on the Friday afternoon with a car boot sale and we got a great response."

"Next year will be our tenth year doing this and every year it gets bigger and better. It's really becoming a major event in the boating calendar now."

"I think over the weekend in total we have had nearly 15,000 people come along, which was huge at its peak."

Not only did visitors enjoy an introduction to a slice of Tipton's canal history, but also the town enjoyed some fun in the sun and a bumper trading day. Visitors also had the chance to park at Dudley

Canal Trust and travel into the centre of the show by boat.

A bonny baby show and charity dog walk took place and vintage vehicles and birds of prey were also on show at Coronation Gardens.

Mr Downing added: "We had boat traders all along the canal and other stalls from historic societies, and people from the British Legion and Cancer Research. "It was a brilliant sight to see along with people from all over enjoying themselves."

"Overall it was marvellous and we're even planning our dates for next year and a possible road closure of Owen Street."

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Pensioner died after fall in street

A PENSIONER from Brierley Hill died just over a week after falling on the pavement on the way back from a pharmacy, an inquest heard.

John James, from Charles Road, Brierley Hill, died at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley on September 17.

The 88-year-old was a retired wood merchant, who was born in Stourbridge.

Oldbury coroner's court heard on Monday that his death followed falling down on Woodland Avenue in Brierley Hill on the way back from a pharmacy on September 8.

An ambulance attended and he was taken to the hospital, where a CT scan revealed that he had a bleed on the brain.

He was given palliative care up until his death at the hospital.

After hearing all of the evidence, senior coroner for the Black Country, Mr Zafar Siddique, returned a conclusion of accidental death.

Five go to hospital after lorry acid spill



Firefighters in breathing apparatus at the acid spill site

FIVE people, including two ambulance staff, were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure after 200 litres of acid spilled from a lorry in Coseley.

Residents and businesses were urged to keep doors and windows closed after the spillage on Monday. Seventy firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service worked with Environment Agency staff to contain the spill in Anchor Lane.

Emergency services were called at 11.38am after reports hydrochloric acid was pouring from a tank on the lorry. A container on the HGV, which had a 1,000 litre capacity, split as the vehicle drove down Anchor Lane. Some of the acid made its way into nearby water courses.

Two ambulance staff, a pedestrian, the driver of the lorry, and a worker from Amey, a nearby company, were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure. Roads were closed as firefighters worked to contain the spillage.

Lee Baker, fire station commander at Bournbrook and Woodgate Valley, said the five were taken to hospital because a vapour cloud from the spillage caused breathing difficulties.

Travellers – MP and commissioner clash

A BLACK Country MP has become embroiled in a row with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner after accusing the force of not doing enough to move travellers.

Mike Wood, MP for Dudley South, said residents were fed up with travellers 'moving from site to site' across the borough and the time it is taking to get them to move.

He called on Commissioner David Jamieson to 'get a grip' and give his officers powers to act immediately.

However, Mr Jamieson has hit back at the Conservative MP, insisting the process of shifting travellers is not as simple as he suggests.

He also suggested Mr Wood speak to his own party's ministers if he wanted laws to be changed to make it easier.

The bitter exchange comes after a summer which has seen a wave of traveller groups pitch up on parks, fields, parking areas and other open spaces across the Black Country.

Historic pub being transformed into apartments

AN historic but derelict pub in Dudley, which has become a target for vandals, is to get a new lease of life when transformed into apartments.

Work is getting under way to renovate the former Gipsies Tent Inn in Steppingstone Street, which since its closure in 1980 has fallen into disrepair.

The project, delivered by a private developer, will see the Victorian building in Dudley town centre's conservation area re-roofed, windows and doors repaired or replaced, damaged bricks repaired and missing timber

and render detailing reinstated. Once completed, the owners will convert and refurbish the interior to bring the building, which sits near to Dudley Magistrates Court, into use as apartments.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley Council's cabinet member for planning and economic development said: "This is another exciting restoration project, bringing an eyesore building on a prominent gateway to the town back into use."

"Despite its deterioration in recent years, the building is an important historic landmark and the work will see it sensitively restored in keep-

ing with the conservation area it sits within.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing it brought back to life as quality homes for people in Dudley."

The external work will cost around £127,000, which is being part funded by grants sourced by the council from the Black Country Local Economic Partnership to repair and bring back into use historic buildings in Dudley town centre. The remainder will be funded by the owner who will refurbish the interior.

During work, which is expected to last eight weeks, Steppingstone Street and Greystone Street will be closed.



Gipsies Tent Inn, Dudley

Armed police for conference

ARMED officers, road blocks and vehicle spot checks will be in place when West Midlands Police biggest security operation of the year gets under way ahead of the Conservative Party conference.

The conference runs at the ICC from Sunday to Wednesday and is expected to attract more than 12,000 delegates, but the WMP's Operation Pelkin kicked into gear this week as the force prepares for heightened security. It will see hundreds of officers on patrol in Birmingham city centre, some will carry guns, while sections of the area from the Hyatt Hotel to the library will be fenced off and airport-style security checks put in place at key entrance points.

Numerous anti-austerity protests are planned during the conference, with up to 20,000 TUC and People's Assembly supporters due to march on its first day.

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Councillor's festive tree bid for town

A CHRISTMAS tree could return as a festive centre piece for Cradley Heath after an absence of several years.

Councillor Caroline White says she will try to raise funds for a new tree to be brought in to bring some yuletide atmosphere to the town centre.

The Cradley Heath and Old Hill ward councillor said she has been gaining supporting online for the idea, adding: "I'm going to be trying to fundraise for a Christmas tree for the town. I have mentioned it on my Facebook page and I am getting support. I'm hoping to get a lot of schools and businesses involved."

She estimated the festive landmark tree would cost up to £2,500. "It will depend on what site we get but hopefully could get a 15 foot one," she said.

Forge link to name of lager

A BLACK Country brewery has created a new craft lager called Drop Forge, inspired by the Cradley Heath business.

Sadler's Ales in Lye has chosen the name for its 4.1 per cent strength beer because of a family link.

Owner of Cradley Heath's Kimber Drop Forge was Walter Kimber, grandfather of brewer Chris Sadler. Drop forging was one of the hottest and hardest jobs, and workers built up a major thirst.

FOCUS ON CRADLEY & CRADLEY HEATH

Extra £500k will pay for urgent repairs to culvert

AN extra half a million pounds is to be pumped into a scheme to prevent a brook from overflowing and flooding nearby homes.

A culvert running under Mushroom Green embankment in Cradley is at risk of collapse due to its poor condition and needs to be replaced. Environment bosses say work must start before the end of the year.

Now Dudley Council has approved additional culvert replacement work. The £496,000 cost will be met by the Environment Agency.

The council had previously been granted a total of £1.4 million towards the project, but additional funds were needed.

The decision was taken by Councillor Judy Foster, deputy leader. She said: "It is essential work that needs to be carried out."

Dudley Council will work in partnership with the Environment Agency, Sandwell Council and Severn Trent Water on what they hope will reduce the risk of a breach if a large flood event re-occurs.

Upstream

Back in 2000, as a result of culvert blockage, land upstream of the embankment flooded and began seeping through the man-made ash embankment.

The Environment Agency

By Judith Hawkins

along with Dudley and Sandwell councils had to spend several days pumping water out.

This latest funding decision follows formal approval by the Environment Agency to fund phase one, costing £100,000.

In May Dudley Council received formal approval for the next stage, design and construction, which was originally valued at £1.3m. However, in order for it to be finalised, the scheme requires the construction of a large culvert through the embankment.

This is to support two very large cast-iron Severn Trent foul water sewers, requiring the services of a specialist civil engineering contractor. Completion has also been delayed in order to meet requirements of the Natural England Badger Licence.

Paintball art aims to trigger a response



Art slinger – Cradley Heath Creative member David Francis prepares to pepper the giant canvas with paintballs

PEOPLE may be used to shooting each other with paintball guns but art fans visiting Haden Hill House locked and loaded to create a messy masterpiece.

Cradley Heath Creative held a Paintball by Numbers event at the stables at Haden Hill House recently, which saw around 40 people lay siege to a huge 20ft by 10ft canvas, splattering it with brightly coloured paint.

Liz Lee, secretary of Cradley Heath

Creative, organised the event which she believes could be the first of its kind.

She said: "We're a group of artists and painters and we often work at Haden Hill. We're trying to encourage more people to use it as an arts area, and we're doing a number of creative projects with Haden Hill."

"We were trying to think of different projects that might work well and we thought about a painting by numbers.

But we've seen that done a lot before. Then we thought about a paintball by numbers event. As far as we know it's the first time it's been done."

"We received funding from Creative Black Country for this and another four projects. "So we got a massive 20ft by 10ft canvas and hired the paintball guns. I think we had about 40 people have a go."

The next project for the group is a Creative Dog Day on October 9.

Firm told it can't store gear at site

AN application for a former church site to be kept as a storage base has been refused by council planners after claims it was blighted by rubbish.

ADS Demolition faced opposition after submitting the retention of use application on the site of the demolished Wesley Methodist Church in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath.

At a Sandwell Council planning meeting on September 14, Councillor Julie Webb called for the site to be cleared within four weeks. She said: "They have been using it as a storage site for months now but it is in a mess. We need to get that site cleared up."

ADS put the application forward in May, saying it would be used to store equipment used by a demolition contractor. Complaints from objectors included claims there was vermin at the site.

Poison pair to haunt house

HADEN Hill House will be turned into a haunted house when theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar perform at the venue.

On October 13 The Friends of Haden Hill Estate has invited the theatre company to takeover Haden Hill House with Murder by Gaslight, an audience with two of the most infamous poisoners in British history, William Palmer and Harvey Crippen. Tickets are £7 with refreshments, at 6pm and 8pm.

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About The Company

Trevor E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors are a long established firm based in Cradley Heath. Formerly known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons the company was established in 1909 and has been serving Cradley Heath, Halesowen and all the surrounding towns and areas since. In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath to focus on the funeral directing side of business. Along with his wife Rose, the local midwife. They became a large part of the local community, with the local saying being "she brings them in to the world, and he takes them out!" Their son William "Bill" Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas, with Bill eventually taking over the business in 1957 after Joe retired. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation.

Trevor inherited J. E. W. Hickton Funeral Directors after his father Bill passed away in 2000. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors. Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2006, followed by his other son Greg in 2010 and finally by his daughter Jodie in 2014.

The family all work together along with a team of long standing and hard working staff. The office staff comprise of former Springfield Post Office manager Mandy Parsons, who looks after the on going funeral arrangements assisted by Jodie, and Kate Davis who has worked for the company for 15 years. Kate is also the company Stone Masonry manager.

In 2014 a brand new dedicated funeral home was built on the grounds of the original funeral home in Lower High Street, to support the needs of the business. Now with three private chapels of rest, three family arrangement rooms and a private working office. The company is able to cater to all needs and requirements of their clients in a friendly and inviting funeral home.

In 2015 the decision was made to renovate the funeral home in Colley Gate with a new reception area and particularly a new shop frontage.

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Convenient way to have free flu jab

20
Halesowen Chronicle
Thursday, September 29, 2016

Commercial feature

Local community pharmacy teams in the Dudley area have begun offering free NHS flu jabs following last year's successful national pharmacy flu vaccination scheme.

Nearly 600,000 people chose to have their flu jab administered in a community pharmacy during 2015/16.

Once again all adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 years or over and in clinical risk groups, can receive a free NHS flu jab at community pharmacies across the area, often without the need for an appointment. People in at-risk groups include pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions including asthma and diabetes.

Pharmacists will be providing the same flu vaccination as those offered by GPs and patients can be assured that their GP practice will be notified that they have been vaccinated.

Feedback

NHS flu vaccination services provided by community pharmacists have shown that the convenience of pharmacy's walk in service gives the NHS benefits in increasing uptake of the vaccine in eligible groups of people and helping meet World Health Organisation vaccination targets. Patients have been overwhelmingly positive in their feedback on the pharmacy services in the past.

Community pharmacists in 7,195 pharmacies across England provided 595,467 vaccinations to patients under the national NHS Flu Vaccination Service in 2015/16. On average, 83 vaccinations were carried out by each participating pharmacy,



Stephen Noble discusses having a flu vaccination with community pharmacist Florid Ahmed

although two pharmacists greatly exceeded this by completing more than 1,000 NHS flu vaccinations each. Local community pharmacist Florid Ahmed said: "I am really excited about the start of this year's Flu Vaccination Service.

"I have been offering vaccinations and other public health services for several years and my patients have been extremely positive

about these. There is so much that community pharmacists and their teams can do to help people with their medicines and their health."

Stephen Noble, a member of Dudley Local Pharmaceutical Committee, said: "Community pharmacy provision of NHS flu vaccinations this flu season means that once again many eligible adult patients will have greater access to this service. Many people may choose pharmacy

because they are unable to attend GP clinics due to factors such as their work hours and because they can visit pharmacies in a variety of locations and without the need to book an appointment.

"Community pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare locations; we offer convenient access to medicines and a range of services without the need for an



Florid Ahmed administers the flu jab to Stephen Noble

appointment. This will be of particular value in flu vaccinations, where we can really help the NHS to meet its vaccination targets.

"In 2015/16, more than 60 per cent of all community pharmacies in England provided the national service to almost 600,000 people. This shows that patients value the convenience of being able to choose to have their NHS flu vaccination from their local pharmacy."

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HALESOWEN

Rotary club is supporting the community in so many ways

Halesowen Rotary is going from strength to strength. Its enthusiastic members enter into a range of activities aimed at supporting the area, offering help to many local charities that help disadvantaged and disabled members of the community.

The success of the Black Country Street Fayre, now in a new format, has encouraged rotary members to take it a step further by next year moving it to

September where it will become the 'Black Country Harvest Fayre'.

With the new name and September date will come an increase in the range of attractions and features on offer.

Meanwhile, the now well-established Black Country 10k Road Race and 5k Family Fun Run around Halesowen Town Centre has become a regular feature of the town's calendar and next year will see some further changes to make it even more attractive.

Entries for next year's races in July will be opened early in the new year, so keep an eye out for future details.

In December Halesowen Rotary will once again be undertaking street tours with Santa Sleighs. These are so eagerly awaited by young and young



New shops for Halesowen include The Works, with branches across the UK

at heart members of communities in Halesowen and Rowley Regis. The dates of the tours will be announced shortly, as too will the routes members hope to follow.

Always seeking to move along with social and business cultural change, the rotary expect to be announcing soon further developments in its exciting corporate membership scheme and an important new community project.

New shops for Halesowen include AA Domestic, selling quality white goods for your home as well as offering an installation and repair service you can count on.

The Works is a British retailer selling discounted arts and craft items, gifts, toys and games, stationery, books and audiovisual goods. The Works has more than 350 branches across the UK.

Turns Arcade is now open. No membership required, no gambling therefore under 18's welcome, pool tables, pinball and arcade games all £1 per play or less.

The arcade is open from 12 with last entry at 9pm. When the college reopens it will return to 10am to 10pm.

Nicoles has opened too, selling bags and luggage.

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We would also like to thank all the volunteers that made the Blooming Gold for Halesowen in Bloom possible.

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Sweet smell of success as 'In Bloom' effort acknowledged

HALESOWEN has won a coveted gold award in the regional Britain in Bloom awards.

Heart of England in Bloom judges made the announcement on September 10.

The judges were impressed by the efforts of the community which in no small way had improved the environment.

Halesowen in Bloom chairman, Eve O'Connor, received special recognition for her leadership and hard work at the awards ceremony in Rugby.

Mrs O'Connor, who is manager of the town's Cornbow Shopping Centre, received a discretionary certificate of merit for her outstanding contribution to the in-bloom scheme.

Achievement

It is only the second year Halesowen has entered the competition, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.

In 2015 the town was presented with a silver gilt, just one step down from this latest achievement.

Last year's success spurred on the committee to bring together community groups, businesses and Dudley Council into pushing for gold.

Mrs O'Connor said: "A big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

"You're all blooming stars without



Halesowen in Bloom chairman Eve O'Connor pictured with her awards

which none of it would've been possible."

Judges toured the town in July, and at the time predicted Halesowen would be a leading light in the competition.

Roger Bache, chairman of Heart of England in Bloom, said: "Entrants give a lot of time and effort to make where

they live and work a nicer, safer place to be.

"They are rightly-so very proud when they receive their prestigious awards for such commitment.

"This year the RHS set the theme of Greening the Grey Britain and in our region they certainly did."



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Web: www.gymophobics.co.uk

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OCTOBER					
Date	Excursion	Adult 16+	Senior 60+	Child 3-15	Route Code
Sat 1st	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford-upon-Avon 2 FOR £23	£13	£12	£10	C
Tue 11th	Bicester Shopping & Oxford (Page 13) 2 for Tuesday 2 FOR £26	£15	£14	-	C
Sat 15th	Blackpool Illuminations Don't miss the greatest free light show on earth!	£20	£18	£16	H
Tue 18th	The Original Cotswolds Excursion 2 FOR £24 "Moreton & Bourton" (Third Tuesday of the month)	£14	£13	-	D
Sun 23rd	Irish House Party, Enniscorthy (Southern Ireland) 5 DAYS 4 Nights HB, Free bar 6-9pm "Best Seller" (Page 24)	ONLY £299pp		-	TBC
Wed 26th	The Poppy Factory Tour Includes guided tour and a 2 course light lunch	£25	£25	-	B
Thu 27th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion "Carvery" (Every Last Thursday of the month) POPULAR EXCURSION, SEE PAGE 12	£23	£23	-	G
Sat 29th	Blackpool Illuminations Don't miss the greatest free light show on earth!	£20	£18	£16	H

NOVEMBER					
Tue 1st	The Poppy Factory Tour Includes guided tour and a 2 course light lunch	£25	£25	-	B
Tue 8th	National Memorial Arboretum & Lichfield 2 for Tuesday (Page 13) 2 FOR £26	£15	£14	-	D
Fri 11th	Weston-Super-Mare Illuminated Carnival Spectacular - Not to be missed! 2 FOR £30	£17	£16	-	J
Sun 13th	Trafford Centre, Manchester Make a start on your Christmas Shopping before the crowds!	£18	£17	£16	C
Thu 17th	Thursford Christmas Spectacular Show 2 DAYS 1 Night B&B "Matinee Show" (Page 26) ONLY	£129pp		-	A
Fri 18th	Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market	£16	£15	-	D
Sat 19th	Chester Christmas Market	£18	£17	£15	B
Sun 20th	Blenheim Palace at Christmas ... NEW Living Craft Fayre	£26	£25	£20	D
Wed 21st	The Royal Albert Hall GRAND TOUR, London NEW Includes Tour & Tea/Coffee/Danish Pastries	£34	£32	-	A
Wed 21st	London as you please ...	£17	£17	-	A

NOVEMBER					
Date	Excursion	Adult 16+	Senior 60+	Child 3-15	Route Code
Thu 22nd	Castle Howard (York) NEW (Page 17) Nifty Grand Tours	£35	£34	-	A
Thu 24th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion "Menu" (Every last Thursday of the month) POPULAR EXCURSION, SEE PAGE 12	£23	£23	-	G
Sun 25th	Tenby (Pembrokeshire) The Belgrave Hotel 5 DAYS 4 Nights HB "Back by popular demand" (Page 23)	ONLY £249pp		-	TBC
Sat 26th	Longleat Festival of Light (at Longleat Safari Park) NEW Santa Train & Ice Rink additional charge applies	£40	£39	£35	B
Sat 26th	Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre NEW This Fayre is a superb pre-Christmas tonic! Don't miss it!	£17	£16	£14	E
Sat 26th	Bruges & Lille Christmas Markets (Page 25) 4 DAYS 3 Nights B&B - Hotel Europe 4*, Ostend	ONLY £209pp		-	TBC
Tue 27th	David Austin Roses & Boundary Mills NEW Includes Garden Tour with Cream Tea	£28	£28	-	F
Sun 27th	York ... as you please Christmas Shopping/St Nicholas Christmas Fayre	£20	£19	£16	A
Wed 28th	Sister Act @ Milton Keynes Theatre "Matinee" (Page 18) The Broadway and West End Smash Hit Musical	£42	£40	-	H
Mon 28th	Bakewell Market & Chatsworth Hous Chatsworth dressed for Christmas ...	£27	£26	-	B
Thu 29th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion "Menu" (Every last Thursday of the month) POPULAR EXCURSION, SEE PAGE 12	£23	£23	-	G

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HALESOWEN Traders urged to vote 'yes'

The plans to introduce a Business Improvement District for Central Halesowen are moving towards a critical phase.

Preparations for the ballot of traders and businesses in central Halesowen are now advanced and which it is currently intended will take place early in the New Year. If approved by a majority of voters, the BID could come into being in the spring of 2017.

A draft business plan has been prepared and is currently with officers of Dudley MBC for comment and any necessary amendments before being placed in front of the Cabinet of the Council at the end of October.

Visits

The business plan will then be circulated to all traders and businesses within the BID area.

A number of councillors for the Halesowen Wards have volunteered to act as Ambassadors for the BID and will shortly be starting their visits around the town telling traders why they support the BID and encouraging the traders to give their support by voting 'yes' when the ballot commences.

All traders and businesses in Central Halesowen will be visited once again between now and the date of the ballot, to deliver to them a copy of the business plan giving them the opportunity to examine both the implications to them individually and the potential advantages that can accrue from the BID.



Barry Wheeler, BID manager for Halesowen, encouraging traders to day 'yes'

The one-to-one visits will also enable the BID team to assess the level of support for the BID amongst all business men and women in the area and to encourage them all to vote 'yes' on this crucial issue.

Wayne Edwards, chairman of the Halesowen Chamber of Trade said: "The BID is crucial for the success and future of our town.

"I strongly urge all businessmen and

women in the central area to support the BID and vote 'yes' in the ballot.

"Together, as a single voice for Halesowen Town Centre, we can revitalise the town and bring in much-needed footfall, attract new businesses offering support for them as well as support for established businesses.

"Working together, local businesses can make Halesowen the place to visit and in which to do business."

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Huge clean-up at park wrecked by travellers

TROLLEYS, cushions, a rug and wooden panels are among a pile of rubbish which has been left strewn over a children's play area and park by travellers in the Black Country.

A council has been left with a huge clean-up job after the mess was left behind at Brades Park in Oldbury.

The travellers had been camped on the land, off Dudley Road East, for the previous fortnight.

Rubbish has been left piled around the children's slide, while part of the fencing has also been damaged.

Further mess, including a sofa, wooden panels and bin bags filled with rubbish have been left on the other side of the field, which is regularly used by dog walkers and children.

Disgusted

Residents said it was not the first time travellers had pitched up on the land and their latest visit has led to calls for more to be done to try and stop them from getting on again.

John Evans, aged 56, who lives nearby and walks his dog on the park, said: "I am disgusted. I was gob-smacked when I saw the mess.

"It's outrageous, they have wrecked all the park for the kids and the community and it's us who will have to pay for it.

"Why couldn't they have just left it the way they found it?"

"They have got to put some concrete bollards up to try and stop it from happening again."

It comes as Sandwell Council bosses are currently discussing ways to try and crackdown on the number of travellers moving onto green spaces across the borough.

Caravans pitching up on land across



The children's play area is festooned with rubbish left behind by travellers



One part of the fence around the play area which has been damaged

the Black Country has been a feature of the summer, with some groups returning to the same location having been previously moved on, leading to growing frustration among residents.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling says it is their aim to have a 'clear and robust approach' so they can act in a 'timely, co-ordinated and appropriate way'.

The authority already has a protocol for tackling travellers, but the new proposals set out changes which they hope will give them more power to remove troublesome camps.

Sandwell Council spends an estimated £250,000 a year dealing with illegal encampments and has moved on more than 1,000 caravans in the last two years.

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Company believes: 'If a job's worth doing it's worth doing right'

Family run business, D.W. Windows, is celebrating its first decade in business.

The business has grown steadily since its formation in 2006, which is mainly due to its work ethic as stated by managing director Dave Walters: "If a job's worth doing it's worth doing right".

It is now run from a head office in Coseley and has two showrooms and employs more than 30 people, including six directly-employed fitting teams. DW Windows has moved on way beyond just double glazed windows of which it offers many different styles and colour profiles, including aluminium over the first ten years in business, and also offers conservatories, doors, solid tiled conservatory roofs and much more.

Company Secretary and Dave's wife, Claire, said that her husband had 25 years experience in the windows industry and had fitted them for other companies, but realised that he could provide a better service if doing it himself.

D.W. Windows now directly employ 30 local people and Dave Walters insists on teamwork and reliability from all of his staff, which are the main reasons that they are going from strength to strength in a very competitive industry.

Claire Walters is proud to be able to say that: "At least 7 out of 10 of our enquiries come from recommendations or previous customers who want to use us again".

Our brilliant showrooms also help, as we have almost 4,000 sq. ft. of display area, with 6 conservatories, 2 orangeries, 35 doors, bifold doors, patio doors, french doors, upvc and composite doors and dozens of windows on display, all in upvc and aluminium at Meadow Lane, Coseley alone, plus much more at our Sedgley showroom in Brick Street.

The company plans to move into 2017 with a brand new website and a third showroom. The company has also just reached the finals of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce awards for customer service and outstanding achievement.

FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS

Charity gets £300k boost to help people in poverty

A CHARITY which provides clothes and household items to people living in poverty has received more than £300,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to continue its vital work.

Loaves 'n' Fishes, located in Blackheath, was awarded £312,542 after successfully applying for the funds. Charity bosses called it a 'blessing'.

The latest donations from the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) saw more than £2.3 million granted to organisations across the West Midlands.

The money will help Loaves 'n' Fishes to support people living in impoverished conditions. It has already helped nearly 2,000 people so far this year.

It is the second time the charity has received funding from the BLF. The project donates clothes and household items, such as beds and sofas.

Supported

Anna Hartland, founder and project manager, said: "We are more than blessed to receive this funding for the second time around from the Big Lottery Fund."

"As poverty levels rise, the greater the need for this charity. In the last year alone, we have supported over 1,973 people."

"Loaves 'n' Fishes is a Christian charity providing furniture, household essentials and clothing to people

who are struggling to make ends meet. We are the most sought-after emergency provision service in our area because we do not sell anything to those we help."

"This funding will expand our project to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people who are most in need through the provision of household necessities."

"People will also have access to skills and employability training, delivered through a volunteer programme."

The cash will fund the charity for the next three years.

The first batch of funding the charity received, in 2013, helped it employ staff and move to bigger premises. The latest cash injection will allow it to continue paying the wages of three staff members and the rent premises.

By Jamie Brassington



Patient Ronald Edwards uses facilities at the new centre at Rowley Regis Hospital

Treatment centre open at hospital

A NEW treatment centre has opened in Rowley Regis as part of the major redevelopment of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust services.

The Rowley Regis Treatment Centre is the result of six months of building and investment in order to transform the community areas within Rowley Regis Hospital. Services provided include outpatient physiotherapy, consultant clinics, phlebectomy, X-ray and ultrasound.

There is also an extensive range of clinics and groups with specialities, including rehabilitation, speech and language therapy, foot health, psychology, continence, respiratory, deep vein thrombosis, intravenous therapy, children's therapies and more.

The new centre was opened by long-standing Rowley Regis Hospital patient 74-year-old Peter Mitchell.

New-look crem is to be opened

A CREMATORIUM and chapel will re-open next week after undergoing a £1.3 million revamp.

Work to upgrade the building and chapel at Rowley Regis Crematorium in Powke Lane has been taking place for two years.

The capacity of the chapel has been doubled to allow space for larger services with up to 120 mourners.

A range of new facilities have been added, including a sheltered floral space, a book of remembrance room, a new entrance and improved toilets.

Other improvements include a more energy-efficient cremator, a waiting area and reception and more parking. Digital music and web broadcasting facilities have been added which will allow family and friends who cannot attend to see the service via the internet.

Trial date set after collision

A MAN will stand trial in Wolverhampton on April 3 over a collision in Rowley Regis that left a 16-year-old with life-changing injuries. Declan Osborne was hit near to his home on January 30 and was in a coma for two weeks.

Danny Dale, 24, of Habberley Road, Blackheath, denies causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He denies driving without a licence and without insurance, failing to stop after or to report an accident.

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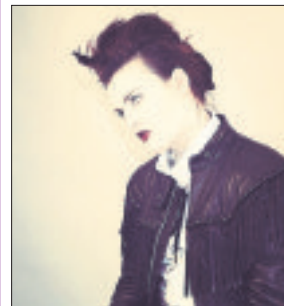
Tuesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
London duo Jack Cooper and James Hoare will bring in a rhythm section to give their wistful meanderings more punch live as they prepare to release new album Dusk.
Visit hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Feeder



Tuesday, 7pm
O2 Institute, Digbeth
The Welsh rockers return after a summer headline slot at the Isle of Wight Festival as they celebrate 20 years with a tour preparing for their ninth album.
Visit academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/

Ren Harvieu & Romeo



Tonight, 7pm
O2 Institute 3, Digbeth
Romeo Stodart of London's brother-sister harmony combo The Magic Numbers teams up with Salford singing sensation Ren Harvieu.
Visit academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/

CLUBBING

Propaganda feat. Packy Lee (Peaky Blinders' Johnny Dogs) DJ set
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

ROCK & METAL

Grouper
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Of Mice & Men
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Superskas
Tonight, £8 - £10
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

u2uk
Tonight,
Courtyard Hereford, HR4 9JR.
Call 01432 340555

From the Jam
Tonight,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Definitely Mightbe (Oasis tribute)
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Dark Side Of The Wall - A tribute to Pink Floyd
Tomorrow, £13 - £15
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Fleetwood Bac
Tomorrow, £12 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The English Beat
Tomorrow,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

John Banner Promotions presents Rock 'n' Reminisce with The Pontiacs
Tomorrow, £12.50 - £14.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Gordon Hendricks As Elvis 2016
Tomorrow - Sun, £21
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Out Of The Shadows (three hour set)
Sun,
Fletchers, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Moose Blood
Mon,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Marianas Trench
Mon,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Fireball - Fuelling The Fire Tour: Less Than Jake, Mariachi El Bronx, The Skints, The Bennies
Wed,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Trevor Burton charity show
Thu, £8 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

POP

Duran: The Tribute + support
Tonight, £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Bee Gees Fever
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Jamie T
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Jake Quickenden
Wed,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Level 42 - Sirens II Tour 2016
Thu,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL FUNK & MOTOWN

The Blues Brothers
Tonight,
Hogarth's Hotel & Restaurant,
Dorridge, Solihull, B93 8QE.
Call 01564779988

The Real Thing
Tomorrow, £21 - £23.50
Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Carl Sinclair Duo
Tue, £14.95
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL

Happy and Glorious - the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service
Tomorrow,
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall,
B73 6AB. Call 0121 464 8990

Monday Showcase: Handel, Warlock, Mahler, C Schumann
Mon, Free
Birmingham City University,
Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Traditional Song Session
Thu,
The Prince of Wales Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

Four Last Songs
Thu,
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Remi Harris at The Carad Theatre
Tomorrow,
Rhayader Museum and Gallery,
LD6 5ER. Call 01597 810561

FESTIVALS

Bladefest 2016
Sun, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Dead Sheep
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Jonathan Pie Live!
Tonight,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

and
Tomorrow,
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Andy White + Abigoliah Schamaun
Tonight,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Adam Hills: Clown Heart
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Ellie Taylor: Infideliety
Tomorrow, £10 - £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

James Acaster - Reset
Wed,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

One Man Star Wars Trilogy
Wed, £17
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Unique Comedy Ukulele Orchestra
Wed, £19 - £22
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

National Poetry Day Party
Thu,
1000 Trades, Birmingham,
B1 3HE.
Call 0121 233 2693

THEATRE

CATS
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Little Shop of Horrors
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Bon Jovi Experience
Tonight,
Oakengates Theatre,
Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Theatre Tour
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Harbinger of Hussain
Tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Tempest
Tomorrow - Thu,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Carmen
Sun, £18 - £24
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Psychic Paula Obrien Live in Birmingham
Mon,
Best Western Westley Hotel,
Birmingham, B27 7UJ.
See <https://paulaobrien.net/event/paula-obrien-live-birmingham-3rd-october-2016/>

Sunset Boulevard
Tue,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

That'll Be the Day
Wed,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Strictly Musicals
Wed - Thu,
Regent Theatre,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Thu, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Snow White
Thu, £12 - £19.50
Oakengates Theatre,
Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

The Duchess of Malfi
Tonight - Thu,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

MISC. EVENTS

Challenge BMX
Today - Sun,
Birmingham BMX Bike Park,
Perry Park, Perry Barr, B42 1RS.
Visit <http://www.challengebmx.com>

Parent and toddler morning
Today, £2
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Leaping Lights Festival
Today,
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Recovery Art
Today - Thu,
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Life Drawing
Tomorrow, £15.50 - £18
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

World premiere of The Tempest ballet

A NEW ballet choreographed by David Bintley and inspired by William Shakespeare is to have its world premiere at Birmingham Hippodrome on Saturday.

Full-length ballet The Tempest is a major work to conclude Birmingham Royal Ballet's 2016 Shakespeare season. BRB artistic director Bintley is promising a breath-taking production full of dazzling dance, theatrical wizardry and stunning designs by War Horse's Rae Smith.

It will be set to a new score by acclaimed British composer Sally Beamish and lit by Bruno Poet, whose previous credits include Miss Saigon.

Yorkshire-born Bintley is an honorary Brummie. He has been offered other major jobs but has stayed in Birmingham for 21 years, since the company relocated from London in a remarkable cultural coup for the second city. An avid Villa fan, he loves the city and loves how embedded the Birmingham Royal Ballet is in the cultural landscape.

A former dancer who graduated to become artistic director, and who received a CBE for his services to dance in the Queen's 2001 Honours, he has been working hard on his latest project to make a memorable conclusion to a season that marked the 400th anniversary of the death of Britain's greatest writer.

"I've been thinking about doing The Tempest for more than 30 years," he said. "I was really waiting for the right composer to come along. Four years ago I heard the music of Sally Beamish and that was it. Within a week we were in touch."

Bintley conjures Prospero's mag-

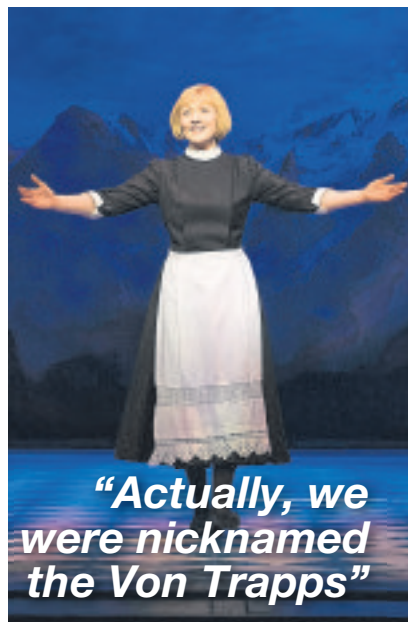


Jenna Roberts as Miranda and Joseph Caley as Ferdinand in The Tempest

ical isle, from what was probably Shakespeare's final work before his death, in a spellbinding new work.

themes of love, loyalty and loss, punctuated by a comedy, magic, more than one conspiracy and a spectacular masque featuring gods and spirits.

The Tempest continues Tuesday to Saturday, before a UK tour.



Lucy has confidence

WHEN Lucy O'Byrne was growing up in Ireland, she was nicknamed Maria. She came from a performing family that was steeped in musical theatre and singing was a part of her background. Family friends likened the O'Byrne family to the Von Trapps – the famous family from The Sound of Music.

And having landed the role of Maria, Lucy is thrilled to be taking part in the touring production that comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

"It's hard work, it's very hard work, but it's such a wonderful thing to be a part of," said Lucy. "My parents both worked in musical theatre and it was something that we always did as a family, as we were growing up. Actually, we were nicknamed the Von Trapps by our family friends long, long before this was on the horizon."

Lucy initially moved from Ireland to the UK to pursue her musical theatre career. She had started training classically when The Voice made her a household name.

"My career took a turn that I wasn't expecting with The Voice. A lot of people will know me from that," said Lucy. "But the music for The Sound of Music needs no introduction. It's Rodgers and Hammerstein and they are songs that everybody knows. They are beautiful and I am so lucky that I get to sing them every night."

Lucy had grown up watching Julie Andrews perform the role and was unsure whether she could live up to expectation. "It was absolutely terrifying but of course I jumped at it. It's so iconic but you have to make it your own."

Hunna and Jamie T sell out shows

THE Hunna reached 13 in the album chart this month with their debut 100 and have sold out their gig at the Birmingham O2 Academy on Tuesday.

Those with a ticket can expect some musical fireworks from the Hertfordshire quartet who recently released the single Bonfire. Support comes from Hampshire trio Blaenavon, who have a new single out called Let's Pray.

Jamie T, charting with fourth album Trick, has sold out the same venue on Saturday. The Fireball Fuelling The Fire tour is at the O2 Academy on Wednesday with Less Than Jake, The Skints, Mariachi El Bronx, Kemuri, and Brum's AMFX.

Wind farm debate inspires Arena play

SET against the backdrop of the debate about wind turbines, three actors tell the story of a fictional rural community and the conflicts caused by a proposed wind farm in its vicinity. Giants on the Hill is a play by Stephanie Dale, performed by Birmingham-based Centric at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight (Thursday).

A boozy night in Cork has shocking results in Edna Walsh's Disco Pigs, at Birmingham Rep's The Door, tonight to Saturday. Maura Judges celebrates an Irish literary figure, Lady Gregory: A Galway Life, at Birmingham Crescent Theatre Studio, tonight to Saturday.

Poppies are back with new line-up

STOURBRIDGE alternative rock favourites Pop Will Eat Itself are back on the road 30 years after they formed in the Black Country, albeit with one original member.

Reformed as PWEI v2.0 in 2011, original drummer Graham Crabb has taken on singing duties since original frontman Clint Mansell went to America and became a top Hollywood soundtrack composer.

The band at The Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday also feature Mary Byker from Gaye Bykers On Acid, Jason Bowld from Killing Joke, Davey Bennett from This Burning Age and Tim Muddiman from The Strange.

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MON 03/10/16 BENS DISCO & KARAOKE
TUE 04/10/16 PREDATORS KARAOKE
WED 05/10/16 KARAOKE WITH 'OUR GAZ'
THUR 06/10/16 STARMAKERS KARAOKE

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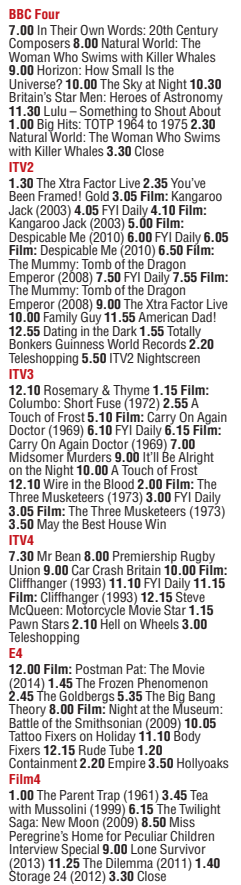


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DIGITAL



FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Alex Cross, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A homicide cop pursues an ex-military assassin who has sadistically tortured and murdered a wealthy executive, leaving a surreal clue to the next victim. However, as the detective tries to bring the killing spree to an end, he finds his own family is also in the firing line. Crime thriller, starring Tyler Perry, Matthew Fox and Jean Reno. (2012)

TUESDAY

Virtual Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman discovers her husband is having an affair over the internet. He is shamed into giving up the relationship and trying to save their troubled marriage, but the concerned wife soon discovers her online rival is dangerously obsessed with him and will stop at nothing to drive them apart. Thriller, starring Christina Cox and Marc Menard. (2012)

WEDNESDAY

The Good Witch's Destiny, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Cassandra Nightingale prepares to celebrate her birthday, hoping to bring as many of her friends and family together as possible. While investigating her family history, she discovers a story of a curse connected to the mysterious disappearance of her great aunt. Drama sequel, the sixth film in the Good Witch series, starring Catherine Bell. (2013)



Killer Elite, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

Crimes of the Mind, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Carolyn Raeburn signs her 16-year-old daughter Laura up for a few weeks of horse-riding lessons at a remote ranch, but the teenager ends up being brainwashed by a woman who grooms her to take the place of her own murdered child. Carolyn spends the next five years of her life and more than half a million dollars fighting to get her Laura back. Fact-based thriller, starring Christina Cox. (2014)

FRIDAY

Killer Elite, Channel 5, 10pm

A former secret agent takes on one last mission to save his mentor, but assassins are sent to stop him. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Clive Owen and Robert De Niro. (2011)

Series shows Sugar is still sweet on success

Yes, that's Sergei Prokofiev's haunting Dance of the Knight (aka Montagues and Capulets) you can hear coming out of your TV speakers.

So unless Sunderland AFC are making their way onto the pitch (the theme is also used on matchdays at the Stadium of Light), then The Apprentice is back.

We all know the score by now – a new batch of sycophants desperate to impress us with their business acumen and rezeooms descend on the capital, all armed with their wheeled suitcases and soundbites.

Then Lord Sugar steps down from his private jet, into the back of the Roller and off to the boardroom to regale everyone with tales of how he began his own business, loaded the lorries, designed the product and stood on the production line, and now he's a peer with a private plane.

Tonight Sugar begins his latest search for a chip-off-the-old-block rough diamond to polish.

The winners of The Apprentice haven't always gone to forge long-

lasting relationships with Sir Alan, but triumphing in the show can certainly give them a leg up on the entrepreneurial ladder.

Last year's winner Joseph Valente used his prize to expand his plumbing business, and predecessor Mark Wright launched an SEO business called Climb Online.

The champ from 2013 Dr Leah Totton owns a cosmetic skin clinic and has also appeared on This Morning, while 2012's Ricky Martin owns a recruitment company.

Other notable contestants from years gone by have included Michelle Dewberry, the season two champion who continues to be a media personality, and Katie Hopkins – now one of the country's most divisive writers.

So who are the candidates that will be tasked with donning pines over their shiny suits to flog fish fingers to stockbrokers in the City this year?

Well whoever they are, you can bet Sir Alan knows which he expects to win from an early stage and the rest are dispensable.

In fairness to Sugar, at least he makes a pretence of sacking them for a reason, and not at random, which of course makes for better entertainment for us.

But although the details of the individuals is unknown at the moment, we'd expect the classic challenges to feature throughout the series – a trade show, an advertising task, some kind of test which forces Lord Sugar to talk about apps and the gruelling interview stage.

Many will also be hoping for a return of previous favourite – the shopping-channel task – so fingers crossed there. One thing that is changing, however, is the host of The Apprentice: You're Fired!

Welsh stand-up comedian Rhod Gilbert will be stepping into Jack Dee's shoes for the BBC Two spin-off and is looking forward to quizzing the rejected candidates.

Claude Littner and Karren Brady also return for the new series, with Littner apparently saying that he plans to be "a little bit more friendly" this year.



The Apprentice, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16, Channel 5, 9pm

Joining the Army is always a life-changing decision – but when you sign up at just 16, the adjustment can be particularly challenging. This new four-part series follows 45 teens from across the country as they arrive in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, for an intensive military training course that's the only one of its kind in Europe. As well as learning to cope with 5.30AM starts, 16-hours days and being cut off from family and friends, the young recruits will also have to cope with field exercises and lessons in weapon-handling. It's also very physically demanding, and in the first episode, junior soldier Laura is feeling the pressure as she tries to overcome her fears of heights on a 40ft-high rope course.

TUESDAY

House Doctor, Channel 5, 7pm

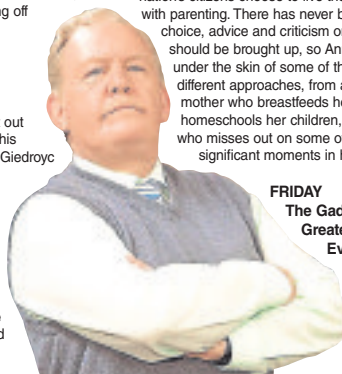
It was way back in 1998 that Channel 5's original House Doctor, Californian Ann Maurice, embarked on a mission to help British homeowners sell their properties. Her message may have been simple (most episodes involved de-cluttering, making it clear which room was which and toning down any particularly strong colour schemes), but it seems

we still need a reminder, as new doctor Tracy Metro is in the house. The revamped series began on Monday morning, but this primetime edition will give more viewers the chance to see her property prescriptions. Here, Tracy offers some of her special brand of constructive advice to Sue in Dorset, whose dated décor may be putting off potential buyers.

WEDNESDAY

The Great British Bake Off, BBC1, 8pm

The six remaining bakers battle it out for a place in the quarter-finals. This time, it is dessert week, and Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins assemble the contestants for three more challenges. To begin with, the amateurs face a sweetly filled signature bake, before moving on to prepare a tricky French dessert that proves to be one of the series' toughest technical challenges to date. Finally, for the showstopper, Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry ask the bakers to produce multi-bake, mini masterpieces.



Still Game, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

THURSDAY

Anne Robinson's Britain, BBC1, 8pm

New series. The broadcaster examines different aspects of 21st-century Britain to find out how the nation's citizens choose to live their lives, beginning with parenting. There has never been so much choice, advice and criticism on the way children should be brought up, so Anne sets out to get under the skin of some of the radically different approaches, from an attachment mother who breastfeeds her toddlers and homeschools her children, to a career mum who misses out on some of the most significant moments in her children's lives.

FRIDAY

The Gadget Show, Greatest Gadgets Ever!

Channel 5, 7pm

New series. One-hour special in which Jason Bradbury, Jon Bentley, Ortis Deley and

Amy Williams attempt to compile a Top 20 list of the greatest gadgets of all time. To qualify, each has to be a physical object with an electronic element, and there has to be clear evidence that it had changed people's lives for the better. After much impassioned debate and persuasive argument between its own members, the team presents an agreed countdown that is likely to inform, entertain and infuriate viewers in equal measure.

Still Game

BBC1, 9.30pm

After a nine-year gap, Glaswegian pensioners Jack and Victor are back for a new series – and they can truly say it's by popular demand. When the sitcom's writers and stars Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill announced they were staging a live version of Still Game at Glasgow's SSE Hydro in 2014, the public response was so enthusiastic that the planned four-night run was expanded to 21 shows. No wonder the Beeb decided not only to revive the series but to promote it to BBC1. In the opening episode, the pensioners fall under the spell of the Futuro catalogue, which promises to 'make life that wee bit easier', leading Jack and Victor to spar over who's got the best gadget. Meanwhile, Winston experiences a rivalry of his own when his brother Walter pays a visit.

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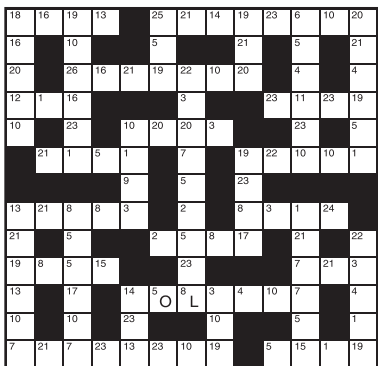
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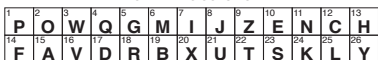
BRAIN GYM No.397

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

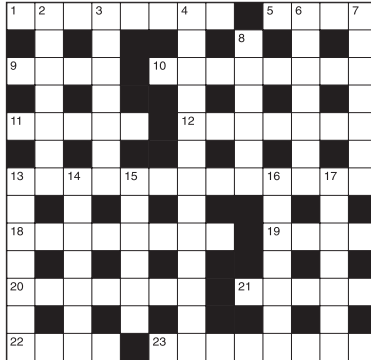
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- During the stage turn, I have to be... (8)
- ... unoccupied (being lazy) (4)
- Announce the scores as 100 each (4)
- It's execrable the defendant should be about right (8)
- Put off being freed to go out (5)
- He gives chase to ship's officer round Union Head (7)
- What anarchy might produce? (13)
- Hold back the others with wet weather (8)
- We shall shortly find water here (4)
- I belong to low order (7)
- Committed to being tied up (5)
- Engrave in sketchy fashion (4)
- Was there as an abstainer concluded (8)

Down

- Could not be closer to Eastern revolution (7)
- Assemble for prayer (7)
- No 2 is chief man in immoral racket? (4-9)
- Put side in contention (7)
- Lasts, but sure to crack at the finish (7)
- Quantities of paper used by sound groups of singers? (6)
- What the striker receives in church? (7)
- It can kill in races (7)
- No beer? get dressed! (6)
- Substantial (8)
- Sob (4)
- Alighted (7)
- Trifling (5)
- Yelps (4)
- Hated (8)



Quick Clues:

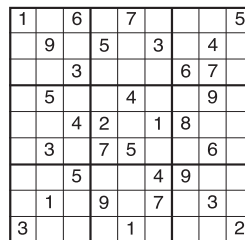
Across

- Reprove (8)
- Young whale (4)
- Dull pain (4)
- Unlearned (8)
- Smaller (5)
- Stretchable (7)
- Unconsciousness (13)
- Substantial (8)
- Sob (4)
- Alighted (7)
- Trifling (5)
- Yelps (4)
- Hated (8)

Down

- Refuse (7)
- Burdensome (7)
- Vow abstinence (4,3,6)
- Greed (7)
- Suitability (7)
- Actions (6)
- Please (7)
- Unceasing (3-4)
- Eatable (6)
- Novelty (7)
- Royal mace (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Thoroughly; 7 Amass; 8 Look-out; 10 Hat-trick; 11 Five; 13 Number; 15 Ring up; 17 Tact; 18 Lighters; 21 Niblick; 22 Obese; 23 Headstones. Down: 1 Toast; 2 Observes; 3 O'clock; 4 Grow; 5 Looming; 6 Washington; 9 Trespasses; 12 High-born; 14 Macabre; 16 Wickel; 19 Evans; 20 Kind. QUICK - Across: 1 Amalgamate; 7 Raise; 8 Tiltage; 10 Wayfarer; 11 Rude; 13 Impact; 15 Reject; 17 Eros; 18 Mediator; 21 Swindle; 22 Inert; 23 Repentance. Down: 1 Amity; 2 Abeyance; 3 Gather; 4 Male; 5 Traduce; 6 Brawniness; 9 Electorate; 12 Revision; 14 Provide; 16 Defect; 19 Theme; 20 Edge.

Quiz

- In which continent is the Drakensberg mountain range?
- How do we now know Brightheimstone?
- From which flower is orrisroot obtained?
- For which film did Jessica Tandy receive an Oscar at 80?
- Which king handed Parliament the Crown Estate in exchange for the civil list?
- Of which Irish province is Dublin the capital?
- With which magician was Claudia Schiffer romantically linked?
- Which is the only metal to burn in nitrogen?
- In 1919, brothers Ross and Keith Smith were the first to fly from England to where?
- What do we call the mammal Lutra lutra?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Cotswolds; 2 Kingdoms;

3 Jesse Owens; 4 Seven; 5 Nosebleed;

6 Mexico; 7 James Clavell;

8 King Arthur; 9 Michigan; 10 Stephen.

Niner: DEMOCRATS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

978 gives a drink,
3452 gives a fish,
57621 gives offal.



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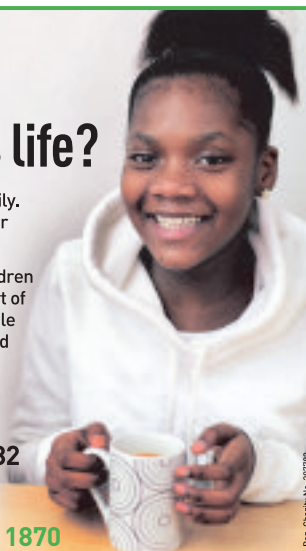
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Corner spot for the Istanbul Restaurant



Smart style – the contemporary interior



Full of flavour – kleftiko, lamb shank with peppers

Turkish delight as my birthday girl tucked in to this lovely fare

By James Driver-Fisher

HAVING never been to Turkey the chance to sample some of the nation's dishes from the comfort of a restaurant nearby appealed to us as a family – so we thought we'd give Istanbul a visit.

The trip also coincided with my daughter, Annabelle's, second birthday and, luckily, as there are very few dishes, foods and flavours she doesn't like, we thought it would be nice for her to try something a bit different.

It was a Sunday afternoon, 5pm to be exact, so we thought we might have the run of the place to ourselves and, although we were the second family in, it was soon filling up. The decor at the Istanbul Restaurant in High Street, Rowley Regis was very welcoming, with the open plan-style seating.

The atmosphere always seems better when there's an open kitchen too. The smell of cooking drifting throughout the restaurant was enough to get the tastebuds going but the fact we were already hungry meant we were soon ready to order.

Pictures hung from each wall depicting Turkish scenes and the music gently playing through the speakers was also local to the country, which gave the whole place an authentic feeling.

But not too over the top, the kind of place you could relax in a pair of jeans with family and friends over a few drinks while also feeling just as at home dressing up a bit.

The clientele is bound to be different on Friday and Saturday night but as a family, with a young daughter, we were made to feel very welcome.

With a Turkish beer, Efes, and a Turkish red wine ordered we chose our starters.

All the sharing platters looked very appealing, including the mix cold meze platter for two or more, with hummus, tarama, cacik, pancar salata, saksuka and sarma.

We opted for two very different starters, with my wife, Kelly, going for one of her favourites, cacik or tzatziki, which really is simplicity itself and always tastes good.

Challenge

The mixture of homemade yoghurt, cucumber, dry mint, dill, garlic and olive oil tasted really delicious. My choice was the mitite kofte, minced meat balls cooked in wine with tomato sauce. It was delicious and it all came with a bowl of flat breads to share. When it was time to order the mains, selecting a single meal each was even more of a challenge. But a decision had to be

made and in the end we went for kaburga, lamb ribs marinated with herbs, and kleftiko, a lamb shank mixed with peppers, baby carrots and baby potatoes, all cooked in a clay oven.

The children's menu also contained six dishes and we decided to try the chicken shish for my daughter, which came with salad and chips. Kelly really enjoyed her meal too and I can vouch for the flavour as I managed to steal a few mouthfuls.

The entire lamb shank just fell off the bone. Mine was a little dry for my liking – not a criticism because it came exactly as you would expect – but I asked for a side order of yoghurt just to add a bit more moisture.

We both had one more drink each, another beer and a Cosmopolitan cocktail, so when the bill came to just over £47 for the lot, we were even more impressed.

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A splendid extended five-bedroomed semi-detached

In a cul-de-sac position just off the Oakham Road in Dingle Close, this five bedroomed extended semi-detached family home is for sale through Trinity Property at £260,000.

Having double glazing and central heating, the driveway to the front leads to the front door, into an entrance lobby and then into the entrance hall. There are stairs to the

OAKHAM

£260,000

first floor, a door to the downstairs WC and further doors to an open plan lounge/dining room to the front, a through room with doors to the rear garden, a utility area leading through to the modern fitted kitchen with a breakfast bar and with a family

room off. On the first floor there are five good sized bedrooms, and the main bedroom with an en-suite shower/WC room off it. There is also a house bathroom/WC with a bath and separate shower with a separate WC down stairs. The rear garden includes decking.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net.

Considerably extended four bedroomed detached home

KINGSWINFORD

£385,000

<<<

This outstanding, considerably extended, superbly re-appointed now four-bedroomed detached home in Ridge Road, Kingswinford is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £385,000.

This attractive traditional style home has a great ground floor layout with through hall and under-stairs store, front lounge with bay and feature mantel fireplace, separate sitting room with multi-fuel burner, superb rear extension providing an open-plan dining kitchen with defined areas, rear doors to garden, roof windows and an Ikea kitchen with white gloss units and integrated appliances - all forming the hub of the house.

Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 287622 or visit www.leeshaw.com



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PEDMORE, Stevens Road£1,350 pcm+Fees
A beautiful well presented detached 4 double bedroom family home in this very popular & convenient location in Pedmore. Accommodation comprises: Reception hall, well equipped kitchen with Range Master Cooker, front reception with doors opening to rear dining room with french door access to a lovely mature private garden. On the first floor there are 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom with separate shower. Outside there is parking to the front with garage, gas central

HALESOWEN, Huntlands Road£850 pcm+Fees
Beautiful views overlooking Cradley! This lovely 3 bedroom semi-detached property located in this very popular location close to schools & bus routes. Featuring: Large reception room, refurbished modern kitchen/dining area, downstairs cloakroom, 3 good size bedrooms (2 with wardrobes) refurbished modern bathroom with separate shower cabine, mature private rear garden, garage & driveway parking, new gas central heating, double glazed and alarmed. EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Newfield Crescent£795 pcm+Fees
Stunning large 3 bedroom semi-detached in this very popular location, close to town centre and schools. Front lounge with gas fire, large open plan kitchen with island, dining & living area leading to patio doors and back garden. Downstairs shower room/utility area, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite and dressing area, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with large jacuzzi bath. EPC: D



SUTTON COLDFIELD, Hartopp Court£795 pcm+Fees
A delightful ground floor two bedroom apartment with an en-suite to master. The property has excellent links to Birmingham City Centre, being located a short walk from the railway station, is gas centrally heated and double glazed and is located in a gated complex with secure allocated parking. EPC: TBC

HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue£775 pcm+Fees
A superb 3 bedroom refurbished semi-detached house comprising of: entrance hall, 2 reception rooms, beautiful kitchen, 2 double & 1 single bedrooms, house bathroom with separate shower, rear garden & driveway for 1 car and a garage, this family home offers a very long rental opportunity. EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue£750 pcm+Fees
Located in the ever popular area of Hurst Green, is this semi-detached house, finished to a high standard, comprising 3 bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, modern bathroom with shower, very large lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden, driveway parking and garage, unfurnished. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, George Road£595 pcm+Fees
Located in a sought after area of Halesowen. This lovely 2 bed terraced property with off road parking features a large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, white bathroom suite and shower, off road parking and a good size rear garden. EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Olive Lane £575 pcm+Fees
A well presented and redecorated 3 bedroom end terrace house in a popular location close to bus links & schools. Featuring reception room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 1 double bedroom & 2 singles, upstairs bathroom with shower. Also benefiting from large flat garden, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street West£575 pcm+Fees
This lovely unfurnished mews terrace property is located close to Halesowen, local buses and for Earls and Windsor High School. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, rear garden. EPC: TBC



BLACKHEATH, Long Lane £575 pcm+Fees
A well presented two bedroom mid terrace property close to railway & bus links. This modern home benefits from double glazing and briefly comprises: hallway, spacious lounge, kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom suite & shower over bath, electric storage heaters, front & rear garden and parking to the rear of the property. EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm+Fees
Minutes away from Rowley Regis Train Station, not far from the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. A nicely presented refurbished mid terrace home, featuring 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D

HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees
Part furnished. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room with sofas, kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms (1 with a bed), bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hammersley Close£535 pcm+Fees
Located in a nice quiet cul-de-sac on the Homer Hill Estate. Just down the road from Colley Lane Primary School and buses to Halesowen and Cradley Heath. This unfurnished modern terrace house features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway for 2 cars, rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: E

QUARRY BANK, Charles Road£525 pcm+Fees
Within walking distance to Quarry Bank shops and bus links. This property is also close by to Cradley Heath Train Station and Merry Hill. This homes features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted dining kitchen, bathroom with shower, paved driveway and rear gardens. EPC: TBC

KIDDERMINSTER, Patin House£500 pcm+Fees
You'll love this charming 1st floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house offering you fully central heating, an open plan lounge giving you generous space to move about, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite worktops, large bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom, allocated parking and well kept communal gardens. Situated in a friendly community. This property is available immediately. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Richmond Court£475 pcm+Fees
A unfurnished 1 bed 1st floor apartment close to Halesowen Town Centre and bus links. Featuring kitchen with integrated appliances, living room, lovely modern shower room, electric storage heating and on road parking. This property is close to Huntingtree Park and a few minutes drive to Halesowen Town. EPC: D

ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close£475 pcm+Fees
A well presented, unfurnished ground floor apartment, close to the M5 J2. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D

STOURBRIDGE, Stamberrill House£425 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished apartments within a stones throw of Stourbridge Town Centre and on the number 9 bus route. This stunning 1 bedroom apartment on the ground floor features an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, shower room, 1 double bedroom & private rear parking. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC



STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£425 pcm+Fees
A stunning part furnished apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the 1st floor and features a great size lounge, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, double glazing and electric heating, on road parking. EPC: C

DUDLEY, Greystone Passage£395 pcm+Fees
A recently redecorated 1st floor flat within walking distance to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, Garden, off road parking. Unfurnished. This property must be seen and not missed. EPC: E

PENSNETT, St Marks Court£395 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat, close to Russells Hall Hospital, briefly comprising of: electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: TBC

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Tiling

I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate,
marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on
01384 412796 or 07890 894631



Skip Hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s

All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week

07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56



Plumbing & Heating

Combi Doc

Gas Safe registered 120506

Get your boiler serviced and ready for winter
Special Offers Now On!
Have you had your boiler/fire checked for Carbon Monoxide??

Insulation, repairs and services on boilers, fires and cookers
Install A band condensing boiler with free wireless room stat from £1250
Ex British Gas with 30 years experience

07956 830204



KEN PERRY

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed

Guild of Master Craftsmen
Gas Safe Registered

STOURBRIDGE 392284

Local Specialists



Roofing

ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE

Over 30 years experience

0121 420 1582

NO CALL OUT CHARGE

Mobile Number: 07947 839451

allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk

allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

ELITE PLASTICS

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• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call

01384 468831 / 07985 575865

www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Upholstery

Property Maintenance

JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques

CONTRACT & DOMESTIC

No Job Too Small

FREE ESTIMATES

Choice of patterns

Quality Workmanship

0121 561 3077 daytime or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs to your home and garden

Also interior and exterior decorating

Local Friendly Service

0121 532 4861

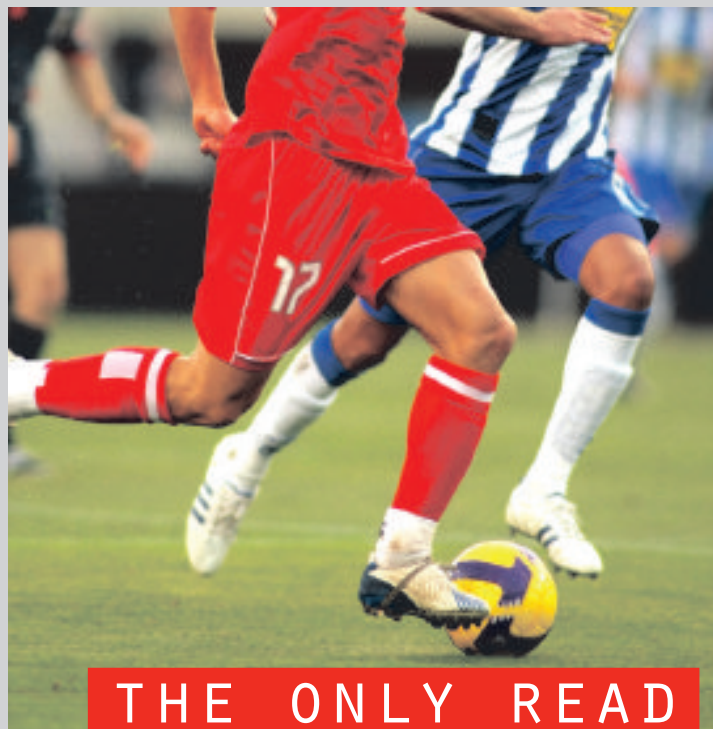
No Job Too Small



Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Final whistle



THE ONLY READ

FOR REAL FANS

EVERY MONDAY

If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go – Final whistle supplement in the Express & Star. Packed with match reports, infographics and player reaction, Final whistle offers the best football coverage around. With expert analysis from star pundits like Kevin Phillips, as well as graphics of the key moments, tables and stats, make sure you get your copy.

A real football read for real football fans.

TO ADVERTISE IN FINAL WHISTLE

CALL OUR EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM

ON 01902 313131

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

Free Ads

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**
VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person
At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors

24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

1

Family

education &
tuition

FULL TIME PRIVATE TUTOR
(four hours per day, four days
per week)
Required for 10 years old with
Dyslexia.
Must be qualified and
experienced as a Teacher for
this age group (KS2) in the
three key stage areas and with
special needs.
Wolverhampton area.
07539 953700.

elderly &
disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER 8MPH
As new!! Only used a couple of
times. Top of the range immac-
ulate condition cost £2595
accept
£895.
07493 645993.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Four wheeled scooter in very
good condition. Fits easily in a
car boot. Great for shopping
and days out. Can deliver.
£265
07905 770683

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01364
255019 / 07831 246292.

WRECKIN STAIRLIFTS recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

caravans /
motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
Caravans 35x12 DG & CH from
£15,000. 11 month holiday season.
01584623453. www.bcpark.co.uk

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

TOYOTA HIACE CAMPER P reg.
MOT till March 17, diesel, blue and
silver, excellent condition, £4,000.
01902 791340 after 6pm.

TRISTAR 4-BERTH touring
caravan, sale due to illness. 07867
801369.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED Cash on pick
up asap.
Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717090817

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR
Kinner Comm. 2nd Sat 2nd Oct
(also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST
1979, Waverley, Next Book Fair
Sunday 16th Oct. Stalls available
for all. Home made refreshments
available. 0121 550 4123.

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Bank's Stadium, Watcalf FO
WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

3

Home & Services

carpets &
furnishings

WALNUT DISPLAY cabinet, pristine
condition, £50. Three sets of cream
curtains 9ftx7ft, lined, various
prices. 01902 703528 Coven.

furniture

PUBLIC NOTICE
FINE FURNITURE
ONLINE RETAILER
NOW IN LIQUIDATION
FRANK BOSWORTH
FURNITURE
LIQUIDATION SALE

Open
Sunday
10-4
£685,000 at a fraction of RRP

Chelsea
Was £1199
NOW £599

Sally
Was £89
NOW £49

Wentworth
Was £1599
NOW £899

Milan
Was £369
NOW £199

BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGROVE ROAD IND EST,
GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 6XF.
VISA OFF A&S 2 miles from NEW
TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
MON-SAT 10-6PM SUN 10-4PM

BROWN CORDUROY 3 piece suite,
8 months old, excellent condition,
£300 ono. 01384 348971.

NEXT 3 seater sofa, coffee/cream
striped, £250. Oak veneer side-
board with matching nest of 3
tables, £75 01902 583652.

TEAK CIRCULAR table, extending
to oval, 4 matching chairs, as new,
£35. 01902 894593.

TEAK COCKTAIL cabinet and 2
drawers, TV cabinet, £10 each.
01902 894593.

WHITE KITCHEN table and 2 stools,
beech surround with tiles, as new,
£35. 01902 894593.

household
appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER excellent con-
dition, £85. Can deliver.
07766 773231.

in your garden

2 CONCRETE castletops fencing, 2
gravel boards, 6ft, plus 3 posts,
£50. 01902 337990/07951 533963.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doullon • Worcester Moorcroft
• Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES & COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Per other items. All we need etc.
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age

Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans
/ Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh
/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@
hotmail.com

FOR GREAT BUSINESS
RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

OLD POCKET and wrist watches
wanted, all conditions, also
menders clearances, parts, etc.
01746 765278. 07773 345218.

READERS ARE ADVISED to care-
fully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, also
any old Crash magazines wanted.
01902 892918.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT
GUNS, ANTIQUE GUNS,
TAXIDERMY, BIG BORE
GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED.
07968 624202

ALL COLLECTABLES from wars
wanted by collector, medals,
helmets, swords etc, cash paid.
07511 500337.

ITEMS FOR SALE

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

BOOK YOUR
ADVERTISEMENTS
OR FAMILY
ANNOUNCEMENTS
ONLINE AT

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one
of hundreds of
customers
who regularly
receive
exclusive
special offers
& discounts.

Classified Ads

specialists at
your service

aerials

Classified Ads
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS
FOR ME

I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS
RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

BOOK YOUR
ADVERTISEMENTS
OR FAMILY
ANNOUNCEMENTS
ONLINE AT

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one
of hundreds of
customers
who regularly
receive
exclusive
special offers
& discounts.

Classified Ads

alarms/security

PREMIER
ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery
cleaning

A CLASS CARPET &
UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing,
concrete posts, gravel boards
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12 noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening
services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden, 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

home
improvements

Home Improvements
Quality Bathroom and Kitchen
installation
Plastering, tiling, carpentry
Greg Blackham
07739 518562
gblackham15@hotmail.
co.uk

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services. Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items,
flat/house removals/clearances,
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
422 2869 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.
Removals, clearances, large/small.
01902 741546, 07899 638582.

STOURBRIDGE REMOVALS
reliable, economical, free quote
(07802) 876876

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

Classified Ads
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS
SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS
FOR ME

Thanks to our
Classified advertising
in the Express & Star
we are really busy!
It definitely
works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

t.v. / home
entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE
Estimates on any TV Repairs,
Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials. Sky installation. Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

4

Pets & Animals

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS

Every day our
customers get a
great response
from Classified
Advertising.

So could you by
calling our friendly
experienced Sales
Advisors on
01902 319191.

equestrian
corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whist Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

FOUR KITTENS 3 black and white males, one tabby female, ready in 1 week. £25. 01902 218944.

KITTENS for sale, 9 weeks old, litter trained, wormed. £20. 07765 652167.

5
Business &
Farmingbusiness
opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

livestock /
poultry

PAIR OF BREEDING Magpie ducks, £12, Indian Runner ducks, mixed colours £7 each. 07855 760721 or 07817 957770.

WHITE GEESSE males and females for sale £5 each. Purchaser must have pool/grazing. 01902 731640.

6
Propertyaccommodation
to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS, smart, fully furn, Paget Road, W-ton, C1, 24hr hw, £300pcm all inc. 07768 354354.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, c95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

THREE BED terrace house to rent, Lower Gornal area. No DSS. Call 01384 252159 or 01384 258309.

mobile homes

LOOK

TINGDENE FULLY
RESIDENTIAL DOUBLE
UNIT PARK HOME
FOR SALE

Two bedrooms, one ensuite.
Private gardens and parking.
Sited in Telford area.
Call for full details on
07810 044813 or
07801 530894.

TUDOR AMBASSADOR
Static caravan with decking
area. 1994 model located at
Hampton Lodge. 35ft x 12ft
2 bed.
Residential site open all year.
£13,000 ono
Call David 07514 505818.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191** Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast? Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**

We can help you make a fresh start

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED.
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
0121 405 0797 *Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191** Brought to you by Express & Star

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191** Brought to you by Express & Star

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

01902 317878 **ClassifiedAds**

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN XANTIA 1.9TD, 1999, 2 owners, 80,000 miles, 12 months MoT, silver, very good condition, £595 ono. 07908 009210.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
FIAT SEICENTO S

Y Reg., 2002, 1108cc.
3Dr hatchback.
Blue, only 37,000 miles, MoT, radio/CD.

Economical, very reliable.
Very good condition all round.
£550 o.n.o.
07491 068850.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 2001, 3dr, hatchback, 69,000 miles, MoT February, blue, reliable, £295. 0121 384 7888.

MUST BE SEEN
FORD FOCUS GHIA ZETEC

1800cc, 5-dr, S reg, service history, 103,000 miles, MoT Jan 2017, recent new tyres, superb to drive.
Very good condition.
£595 ono.
07983 235854.
0121 532 0175.

MGF, 2 seater sports car, lots spent, 5 months MoT, R reg, no rust, very good condition, cream leather interior, £895 ono. 07759 827185.

BARGAIN
NISSAN MICRA 1995 1.0

MoT April 2017.
Good runner.
£295.
07939 469224.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MUST BE SEEN

ROVER 420 SDI TURBO HATCH
R reg. MoT March 17.
Service History.
Good condition.
Reliable. Clean Car.
£350 ono.
01384 231222 / 07792 286882.

ROVER 75 Connoisseur Estate, auto diesel, 54 reg, fsh, full MoT, good condition, £585. Telephone 07827 532288.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL ASTRA DIESEL
58 plate, good condition, silver, 5-dr, 12 months MoT.

£1,395 ono

07948 309727.
VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 04 reg, 5-dr, low miles, 12 months MoT, CL, CD player, EW, EM, £995 ono. 07722 998594.

AUTOMATIC

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 LS 1996. Automatic. 46,000 miles.
PAS, 12 months MoT. A1 condition.
£575.
07923 132859.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1800CC SRI 2003 PETROL
Mot March 17. Black.
Fully alarmed. Alloys.
Good, reliable car. Rado. CD. E/W. High miles but looked after. Same family for last four years. Any inspection.
Private sale.
Quick sale £595.
01902 262001 / 07928 679949.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8, 2000, hatch, MoT. Very sound and well maintained by present owner 7 years. Totally reliable, £350 ono. 01785 841187.

IMMACULATE

VW BORA 2.0 S
2002.
Blue.
MoT to end of May.
One owner.
Immaculate condition.
£650 o.n.o.
01902 753233.

1ST TO SEE
WILL BUY

VW Lupo 1.4
52 reg., 3-dr, red, very good runner, very clean inside / out, low mileage, recent cambelt, 12 months MoT,
£995 ono
07536 100153.

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO 1.4 AUTO
51 reg., 43,000 miles, FSH, silver.
£695 ono

SOLD.

cars over £1500

AUDI A1
1.6TDI, SE SPORTSBACK
5-dr, FSH, MoT June, 2 remote control keys, 15,630 miles, mechanically warranted, usual standard features, free tax.
£9,750 ono.
07916 252817.

EXCELLENT
CONDITION

FORD FOCUS
TITANIUM TDCi
6 speed, 5dr, 2012, 2 owners, FSH, 89,000 miles, silver, all extras, full MoT.
Superb value.
£5,995.
07546 779139.

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

.....LIMITED OFFER.....
SELL YOUR CAR FOR
ONLY £9.99**
FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE

FIAT PUNTO 1.0 2001, bright red, 55,000 miles, 6 months MoT, radio/CD player, new tyres, some history, ideal first car.
Advert example only
£1,200 o.n.o
01902 123456.

PEUGEOT 207 2.0 PETROL 2003, metallic gold, nice interior, all electric fsh, full MoT, sunroof, radio/CD player, very good condition.
Advert example only.
£2,600 o.n.o
01902 123456.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 DIESEL 2005, 5dr, black metallic, full av, fsh, dealer serviced, sat nav, sunroof, interior, in car system, excellent condition, (Advert example only)
£2,500 o.n.o
01902 123456.

5 GREAT REASONS TO SELL YOUR CAR IN THE EXPRESS & STAR

1. *91% of **CUSTOMERS** would **RECOMMEND** our services.
2. We reach over **680,000** potential buyers a week.
3. At only £9.99 we give **UNRIVALLED** value for money.
4. The price you see is the price you pay. **NO HIDDEN COSTS.**
5. For your convenience you can **TALK TO US**, or **BOOK ONLINE.**

Call us on 01902 317878
or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

* 135 customers surveyed July 2016)
** Private advertisers only

ClassifiedAds



Rexton is a top package

The Rexton is SsangYong's flagship sport utility vehicle (SUV), and is greatly enhanced with the addition of an upgraded Euro 6 compliant powertrain.

In addition to the new 2.2 litre Euro 6 diesel engine, Rexton also gets the choice of a 6-speed manual transmission or new Mercedes-Benz 7-speed automatic.

The newly developed e-XDi220 diesel engine meets the demand for a more powerful performance and lower CO2 emissions at the same time. Maximum power is increased to 178ps and torque to 400Nm – up by 15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively over the previous Euro 5 diesel 2.0 litre engine. Maximum torque is delivered from a low of 1,400rpm and maintained through a wide range up to 2,800rpm for smooth, progressive driving.

Big strides have also been made

with CO2 emissions which have been reduced to 184g/km, down from 196g/km on the previous manual transmission model, while fuel economy is considerably improved and now up to 40mpg (combined cycle) compared with 38.2mpg on the model it replaces.

"This is a significant step up for the Rexton," says Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong UK. "The power upgrade and new 7-speed automatic bring greater refinement, while the car continues to deliver unrivalled levels of equipment for the price, and is backed by a comprehensive five year limitless mileage warranty for complete peace of mind."

Built on a steel ladder chassis and with a three tonne towing capacity, the 2016 SsangYong Rexton is a serious off-roader and tow-car, yet with all the equipment and creature comforts expected of an urban cruiser.

Noted for being extremely capable off-road, the Rexton uses a body on frame construction for maximum

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With either the 6-speed manual or 7-speed Mercedes-Benz automatic transmission, the driver can select low range when going off road which splits the torque equally between the front and rear axles to provide all round traction, and ensures optimum grip across the most challenging terrain.

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Prices start from £22,995.



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New landmark for a Black Country family dealership

Commercial feature

After forty years in the Dudley Borough, it's an anniversary of a different kind for one of the Black Country's longest established dealerships.

Following a move from its former site on Wellington Road in Dudley, the business has recently celebrated its first year at its new purpose-built sales centre in Old Hill, Halesowen.

Founded by Colin Nash in 1975 and joined in the business by sons Warwick and James Nash in 1994, the company's standards remain as high as today as they were 40 years ago with a real effort to source only the finest used cars in the marketplace.

Situated on Station Road, just off the Old Hill by-pass, the new sales centre certainly gives the business more scope as it continues to expand.

In addition to carrying more stock and offering greater choice and value, customers also benefit from a wider choice of finance options including cashback, nil deposit and payments over 36, 48 and 60 months.

A quick chat with Warwick reveals that the firm's longevity is not the only aspect that separates the firm from the rest of the crowd.

"We are one of the only independent dealerships that has its own in-house service centre, this really does give our cus-



tomers base a sense of reassurance knowing that our cars are being prepared to the highest standards."

"Every vehicle in stock is supplied with a full service, full Mot, warranty plan and HPI check to give the customer complete peace of mind."

James has identified a noticeable upturn in repeat custom over recent years. "From day one, dad has always stressed the importance of customer service as well as quality

Relocation has seen increased sales at the new purpose-built site in Old Hill, Halesowen

of product and Warwick and I have taken that on board."

"What we have found really encouraging, along with increased sales is the amount of returning customers who have already visited us at the new sales centre."

With a reputation that has been built up over four decades, a real commitment to its customer base and a newly acquired site, we think it's safe to say Delph Garage looks more than well equipped to serve

the Black Country car market and it's surrounding areas for many years to come.

Delph Garage is open six days a week and has a newly launched mobile and tablet friendly website featuring all its current stock and finance options.

For more information on what Delph can offer visit www.delphgarage.co.uk

● Pictured above: James, Colin and Warwick Nash and the Delph Garage site, Station Road, Old Hill.



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Darren Fletcher presents Tony Pulis with a Ship's Decanter to commemorate his 1000th match as a manager



Baggies head coach Tony Pulis points the way from the sidelines



Hard graft key as Pulis reaches grand milestone

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Wilson

'OUT of all the family, I was the lucky one, I was the one that got out, so I don't regret anything and I don't want for anything.'

Last Saturday was a landmark one for Albion head coach Tony Pulis as he marked his 1,000th game in management after 24 years at the coalface.

And although he's divided opinion among supporters for the majority of that time, he's also climbed up the divisions to become one of the most recognisable characters in British football.

It's been a long journey from humble beginnings in Pill-gwenly, South Wales.

"There were eight of us living in a three-bedroom terraced house, and if mum ran out of milk she would go next door and the neighbour would give her a bottle of milk," he reminisces.

"That would happen through the street, through the area, everybody helped everybody.

"I remember the miners' strike in the early 70s, nobody could get coal, or this or that, and people went round houses. If people were short, people would look after them."

That community spirit has stuck with Pulis ever since, and it shines through in his football ethos.

The 58-year-old has witnessed many changes in the game over the past quarter of a century, but there are some constants, like teamwork and hard graft.

Reputation

"I have always instilled – which is so important to me as a manager of people – the DNA get on together," he said. "Everyone was prepared to work together, and everyone either won or lost together."

The former Stoke boss is well aware of his reputation, and the lazy pundits who label his tactics 'anti-football'.

Modern Premier League football is a pantomime, with heroes and villains, and it's all too easy to cast Pulis as the latter because of his 'agricultural' approach.

But if it was that simple then surely the coach who's never been relegated would have been found out by now.

"People say about me and my style of play," he says. "I tell you what I do, I go into football clubs, try and find out

"I go into football clubs, try and find out what systems suit those players and try to get the damnedest out of the players."

what systems suit those players and try to get the damnedest out of the players. That's what I've done everywhere I've been.

"If I've got a load of centre-halves who can't pass, you don't want them to pass out from the back. You have to look at the strengths and work around that."

Is it irritating though, being one of the longest-serving managers in British football, but saddled with such a one-dimensional reputation?

"That is life, you get pigeon-holed and you accept it or you fight it. I have accepted it, that is what people think. There is enough people out there that see it differently."

Although he's quick to point out how lucky he's been, there is a slight annoyance that he's never been given the best squad, in any division.

Gillingham, Portsmouth, Plymouth; they were all struggling when he took charge, and he left all three in a better position. The same can be argued for Stoke and Crystal Palace.

One day, he'd love 'the opportunity of working with real quality'. "The basic principles would remain," he assures. "But you'd give them more leeway to express themselves and make decisions themselves."

The closest he ever came to that was at Palace, when the style evolved into something more exciting, more entertaining. "Palace is an ideal scenario," he said. "When I went

there, the players and the team were all over the place. We managed to get some players in during the window. But during that early time the biggest thing was finding a way to win."

There have also been some memorable scraps. He refused to go into detail about specific incidents – like the infamous naked head-butt on striker James Beattie – but he did say: "If someone has been top cock, I've knocked him down. Some respond, some don't. As Cloughie used to say, there's no room for two big heads in this club."

But football has changed since the days of Brian Clough. There are no more dressing room brawls, no more pinning players against the wall.

"There was a time and place for that, but that was years ago," said Pulis. "There are times when I still lose my temper and go after one or two players but it would never come to that. You couldn't do it."

Money has changed the dynamics of football, and not necessarily for the better. Pulis says players are 'film stars' now, paid extortionate amounts of cash far too young, and it is detrimental to their development as people.

Money

His solution? A day working in the local industry to bring them back down to earth.

"One day at Stoke we took them to the pots," he said. "Show them what kids will have to do when they leave school rather than playing football, being given 30 pairs of boots, being paid a lot of money. They need a reality check."

Although it's been nearly a quarter of a century in various hot seats, Pulis has no plans of retiring any time soon, there's plenty more petrol left in the tank.

The passion still burns away inside, and the defeats still hurt as much.

"I've got a little room which I just go in," he revealed. "There is a just a television in there and my wife brings my food and a glass of wine. Then she leaves me till the next morning."

But the fiery coach has mellowed with age, thanks in part to the arrival of grandchildren. "They are lovely, they bring you back down to earth."



The former Gillingham, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Crystal Palace boss has reached the 1,000 game landmark



Pulis on his appointment as Baggies boss in January 2015



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Yozza lines up for Grand Slam debut

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes has ensured there will be a Black Country presence at the PDC's Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton this year.

'Yozza' secured his debut place at the ninth annual Civic Hall event, from November 12 to 20, through his BDO ranking.

BDO champion Scott Waites is one of four who qualify automatically and is the only thrower from the organisation to have won the Grand Slam, in 2010.

World Championship runner-up Jeff Smith, World Masters winner Glen Durrant and World Trophy titlist Darryl Fitton are also in.

'Yozza' is only the second Black Country thrower to take part at the Grand Slam after Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones, who is attached to the PDC. The final field will be determined on Monday October 24.

Tickets for the eight-day event are on sale now, by calling the Civic Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or online via www.theticketfactory.com/pdc

Meanwhile, Tipton's throwers led the way over a busy three days of non-telvised 'floor' action on the BDO circuit with Jamie Hughes, Scott Baker and Ian Jones all putting together sterling runs. They travelled to the Spa in Bridlington to take part in the BDO British Open and British Classic.

Hughes first teamed up with James Hurrell for the Open men's pairs competition, where they reached the semi-finals.

The Classic men's singles followed, with Baker and Jones making it through to the group stages.

Baker went out 4-2 to Paul Jennings. 'Whippet' Jones made the semi-finals, but lost 5-3 to Mark McGeeney. Play culminated with the Open men's singles, with Hughes winning his group and Baker reaching the last 16.

Glassboys back to winning ways as Whitby scuppered

Stourbridge 2 Whitby 1
STOURBRIDGE returned to winning ways as goals from Luke Benbow and Leon Broadhurst wrecked Whitby Town's unbeaten start to the season.

The Glassboys struck in both halves to secure their first win in three league games against the high-flying Yorkshire visitors who were left to rue Matthew Tymon's fluffed spot-kick.

The breakthrough arrived on 28 minutes as Benbow latched on to a defence-splitting pass before rounding keeper Shane Bland and slotting into the net.

Town should have hauled themselves level just before half-time when forward Dave Hopson fell under a challenge in Stour's box and referee Matthew Smith pointed to the spot. But Tymon's penalty was blocked by the legs of keeper Matt Gould.

The miss was punished by the hosts on 74 minutes when Broadhurst tapped in from close range after Bland could only palm Drew Canavan's effort into the path. But Town halved the deficit barely a minute later.

Hales in the wars but back to form

Old Halesonians 30 Old Towcestrians 20
OLD Hales returned to form with a victory that takes them to third in the league.

Towcestrians came to Wassell Grove for the first time having been promoted last season.

The deadlock was broken by prop Matt Young who dived for the first score, converted by full back Chris Hooper. Winger Jay Reid to beat the opposition to the line for the second try.

From the restart, Towcestrians fought back with a pushover try wide out which they were unable to convert.

Play was stopped for an injury to Adam Clayton who had dislocated his shoulder, he was re-

Rugby

placed by Loz Breese. The visitors were penalised and one player left the field with a yellow card. Hooper stepped up to convert the penalty.

During this time Clayton, who was waiting for transport to hospital, moved his arm to a position of support and the shoulder popped back in to place, so he decided to re-enter the fray.

Hales then took advantage of the 14 man opposition to force another penalty in the Hales half. Hooper elected to go for 55m goal attempt and dissected the posts for an excellent score.

Clayton added to the tally with an excellently worked try before player/coach Ben Hughes was penalised for a high tackle and a penalty reduced Hales' advantage. Reid's second try, converted by Hooper, made it 30-8.

The visitors came back after Ian Briggs received a yellow, making the score 30-13. Changes, including the loss of Briggs on his return with dislocated fingers, disrupted Hales, and the visitors added a converted try.

The seconds lost 62-15 to Towcestrians, the third ended up without a game and the fourths won their first game this season, beating Evesham 3rds 45-12.

Holt follows his father to win area title

PAUL Holt followed in his father's footsteps and secured the Midlands Area Super Featherweight title with an explosive stoppage of Louis Fielding last Saturday evening.

The title clash was top of the bill on Black Country Boxing's 'High Stakes' show, sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, at Walsall Town Hall. Brummie Holt ended the fight prematurely as Tamworth's Fielding was put on the canvas and referee Shaun Messer, decided to call it off in the sixth.

Old Hill fighter Manny Zaber moved a step closer to a bout with rival Les Byfield as he got the better of veteran Kristian Laight with a 40-36 points decision.

'Pac Man' struggled to break down Laight who was competing in his 249th professional fight. 'Mr Reliable' slipped well and reduced Zaber to mostly scuffling punches but Laight didn't throw enough back to have a say in a one sided contest for Zaber.

Similarly Josh Burke failed to breakthrough Rolandas Cesna's solid defence as he laboured to a points victory over the Lithuanian. Most of the 30-year-old's shots were blocked but Wolverhampton's Burke received little back as he did just enough to get the win.

Tommy Loach got the perfect start to his career, if not the perfect performance, with a debut win in front of a raucous crowd in the opening bout of the night. The West Bromwich welterweight defeated Iranian born Ali Wyatt on points but he will be hoping to improve on his head movement in the future.

Birmingham's Luke Heron (Walker) cruised to a fourth successive win of his promising career with the performance of the night. The 23-year-old was too fast for Stoke's Mark Till as he landed silky three punch combinations to the head and body.

DK runner Sprague's Peak performance

DUDLEY Kingswinford's Andy Sprague came 19th in the Lake District 3x3000 ultra, an 80k fell race over the peaks of Scafell Pile, Helvellyn and Skiddaw.

Samantha Hemming dipped her toe into the ultra waters, finishing the JW Ultra, a 30 miller between Stratford-upon-Avon and Bournville in 6.31.39. Dave Hickman finished the Stafford 10k in 45.13 to take 158th place.

At Sutton Park in the Midland Counties Road Relays, the ladies A team finished in 1.26.10 and the Bs in 1.50.01. The men's A team posted a best performance finishing in 47th place in 2.13.06. The B team came home in 2.30.58.

★★★

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YELTZ STRETCH UNBEATEN RUN

Halesowen Town 2 Ilkeston FC 1 - Evo-Stik League Northern Premier Division

TWO more goals from leading striker Kaiman Anderson extended Halesowen's unbeaten run to six games on Tuesday night.

Basement side Ilkeston started brightly and Anthony Dwyer flicked a header just wide from Mark Shelton's sixth minute corner.

Home goalkeeper Dan Platt then made a superb reflex save to keep out a powerful header from Anton Brown in the 16th minute.

As Halesowen came into the game a dangerous right wing cross from Kyle Haynes was tipped onto the top of the post by visiting goalkeeper Ross Durrant.

Anderson then put the Yeltz 1-0 ahead in the 33rd minute by following up to nod home after Malcolm Melvin headed Lee Chilton's deep cross against the underside of the bar.

Doubled

Anderson went close again on two occasions at the start of the second period. But the Yeltz finally doubled the lead in the 71st minute after Kennedy Digie intercepted in midfield and drove forward powerfully before releasing Anderson to curl into the top corner in a one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

Dwyer nodded home a consolation goal for Ilkeston at the far post from Rory Coleman's free-kick in the sixth minute of injury time.

Barwell 0 Halesowen Town 0

ON Saturday, Yeltz extended their unbeaten run to three Evo-Stik Premier games with a gritty performance in difficult conditions in Leicestershire.

They had to contend with a swirling wind, which meant chances were at a premium for both sides, although Halesowen had the first on 23 minutes when Kennedy Digie saw a shot cleared off the line by Declan Towers.

After the break, Malcolm Melvin went close to scoring against his old club but Barwell keeper Max Smith-Varnham was equal to his free-kick. Lee Chilton cheekily tried to lob Smith-Varnham but he got back to tip the ball over.

Rider Ayres his love for fans



Heathen guest rider Danny Ayres leads Eastbourne's Jake Knight around the track

SUPER guest Danny Ayres has thanked Cradley fans for their unbelievable support during Tuesday's Knockout Cup semi-final first leg against Eastbourne at Monmore.

Heathen's Knockout Cup hopes took a major blow after suffering a 46-44 defeat. But the Glasgow and Kent racer won all four of his programmed rides to tally 12 points.

And Ayres says he couldn't believe the reception he got as a guest rider.

"Words can't describe the thoughts that went through my mind when I heard the noise the Cradley fans made for me," he said.

"I've guested a couple of times for the Heathens now and on each occasion the fans have

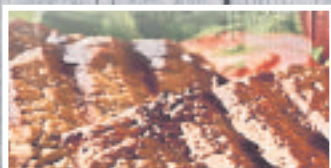
showed me love and made me feel like one of their own."

Tuesday night's tie was all square going into the final heat but it was the visitors who made the gate and secured a 4-2 to seal the victory.

Mistake

A 3-3 in the penultimate race ensured a last heat decider, but Cradley's hopes were ended when Ayres made a rare mistake on the opening bend to allow the opposition to pull clear.

Before the second leg on October 15, Heathens face Birmingham at Perry Barr next Thursday in the play-off semi-final.



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